Sir Real's

UNDERGROUND COMIX CLASSIX

A+Plus #2

Published July 1977
(1st edition)
Megaton Publications
$1.00
68 pages
Printrun of 5,000 copies
7" x 9 5/8"

Stories:

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A+PLUS

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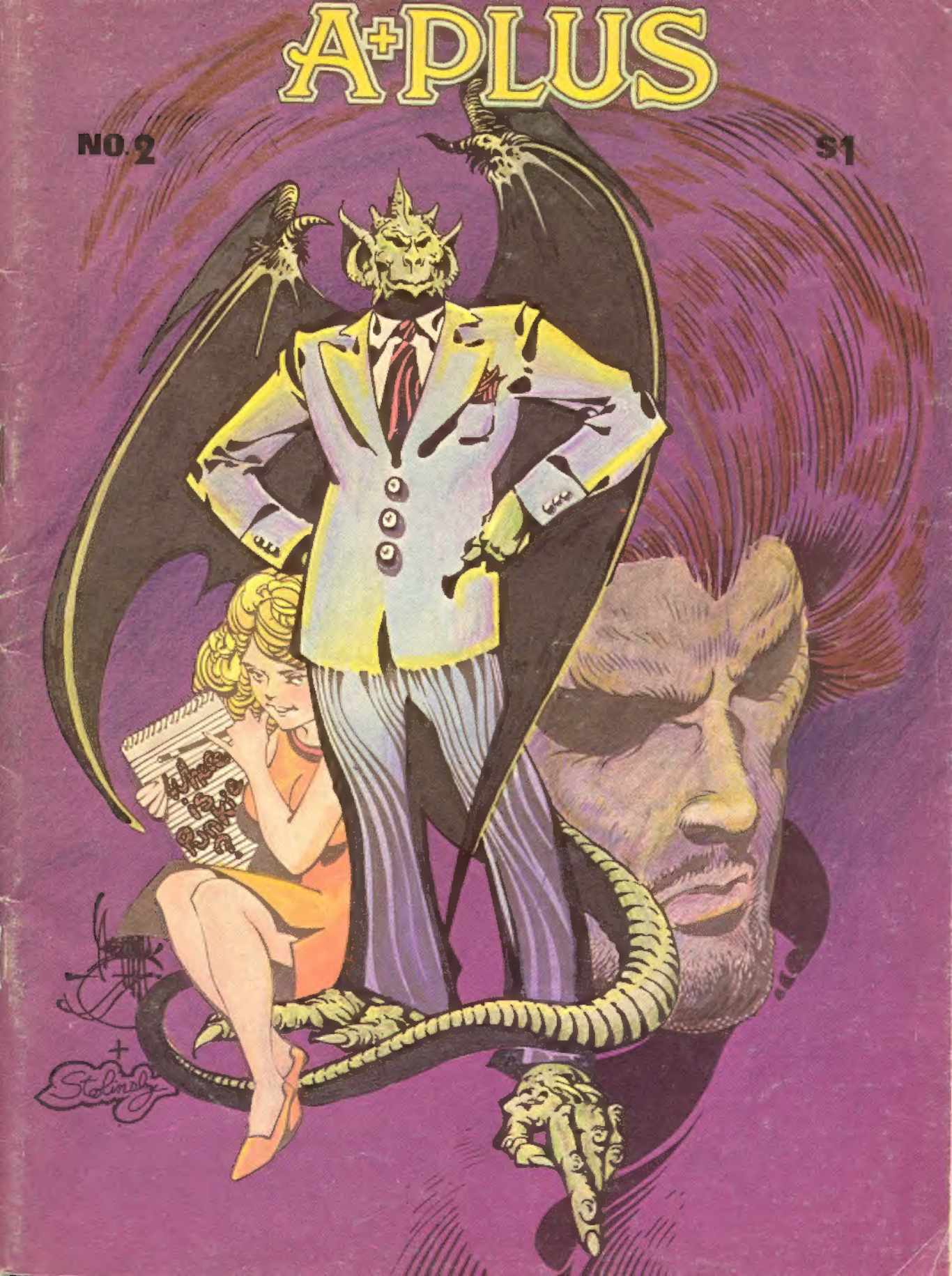

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MEGATON

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PUBLICATIONS

5492 CASPER · DETROIT MI 48210 · (313) 841-2926

AN EDITORIAL

As I'm writing this editorial it is still uncertain how successful A+PLUS number one really is. We are still waiting for sales returns and word from major retail outlets. We've made some changes with this issue, most notably page size (7x10) and the full color cover this issue is sporting. We think they'll meet your approval.

It's been only three short months since A+PLUS one was released. A lot of sweat, hard work, and determination saw it through. Only one thing made it worthwhile and kept the staff motivated;... a sincere love for what we are producing.

During those three months we've received a lot of positive responses from our readers. Most thought the artwork, over all, was "really good". PARAPHENALIA, THE FOOL, and TENDRILS OF THE MIND seemed to rank as favorite stories. Yet A+PLUS has fallen under criticism as well. Some people have found our stories offensive, too violent, sexist (frontal nudity), anti-Gay Lib (PARAPHENALIA), too depressing/cynical. Some have questioned; why these kind of stories? What are we trying to achieve? I'd like to try to answer these queries.

The people at MEGATON PUB.S are tired of the mediocrity heaped upon the comic book reader. We feel "most" of the conventional comics fall short of their true potential. We want to give YOU more! We want to give you new ideas, new approaches that conventional comics cannot, either because of the Comic Book Code or fear of ostracizing their eight to twelve year old audience.

A+PLUS is directed to a more mature, seasoned reader. We try to appeal to a multi-leveled audience by offering a variety of stories and art, by raising our standards of quality.

In doing so we experiment with the art, story-telling, design and subject matter for our stories. We attempt to explore the many realities that co-exist in our world. Sometimes they clash; some are good others, bad... each exists... each is valid.

We feel that our readers have an intellect. We feel you can and do appreciate what we are trying to achieve. It is unfortunate that we must offend some readers but it is an expense that must be paid to retain the freedom of creativity and variety of our stories. We try to approach every aspect as "tastefully" as possible and do not deliberately attempt to offend anyone... It is simply unavoidable. People found GARY TRUDEAU's newspaper strip DOONESBURY, offensive when he covered some aspects of America's political arena, or his series in which JOANNIE CAUCUS goes to bed with her lover (which were censored in many papers).

What one person likes someone else dislikes. When a person pokes his head above the crowd someone else is liable to throw a brick at him. We've had a lot of praise and a lot of bricks thrown at us. Are we really experimental? Are we really succeeding in our aims? I imagine only you, the reader, can really decide. All we can do is try and keep on trying. What do you think?

Kevin Siembieda

A·plus 3 SATIRE·HUMOR·SF

Issue 3 features the further Adventures of the Gargoyle and Punkie-My-Eye; and Paraphernalia. Plus NEW; startling characters in the realm of Science Fiction/Fantasy! Watch for us... OCTOBER.

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IN THE FAR DISTANT SPACE NEAR INFINITIES END ON THE PLANET COK-NOK-ER, A CHANCE MEETING BETWEEN BOTH WIZARD AND MORTAL WILL ALTER THE DESTINY OF ALL INVOLVED.

STORY-ART by:
BRIAN SIEMBIEDA
INKS-LETTERS by:
KEVIN SIEMBIEDA

Oh GREAT DARK NETHER GODS! HEED MY CALL, I PRAY.
DELIVER US, GODS, THIS VERY DAY!
AN EVIL OGRE DOTH CAUSE OUR MINDS TO REEL.
...SO SEND US, oh GODS, A WARRIOR WITH MUSCLES OF STEEL!
Huh?
SPLAT
NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL SERVICE.

1.

SGT. MARK E. RAINEY

A SHORT TIME LATER A WIZEND OLD WIZARD CARRIES IN A GUNNY SACK WHAT MAY WELL SPELL SALVATION TO A DESPERATE PEOPLE.
Puff Puff...
WELL LOOK WHAT THE CAT DRAGGED IN.
Er.... GOOD MORNING, oh GREAT, MIGHTY, AND WONDEROUS QUEEN!
Twerp!

paraphernalia...

The Resurrection of Peter Peabrain

© BRIAN SIEMBIEDA 1977

A SHORT TIME LATER IN THE WIZARDS TOWER.
hhmmm... IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE GODS COULD'VE SENT BETTER MATERIAL THEN THIS BROKEN-UP CORPSE.
WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE TO IMPROVISE.
HOW TO RAISE THE DEAD
by MARY SHELLY
FINALLY
EUREAKA!! I'VE DONE IT!
IT'S MOVING!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
I'M A WIZARD AND I JUST BROUGHT YOU BACK FROM THE DEAD!
WHAT KIND OF CRAZY STORY IS THAT?... THE LAST I REMEMBER, WAS WAKING UP ON A TEETERING ROCK SUSPENDED THOUSANDS OF FEET ABOVE THE GROUND; SUFFERING FOR DAYS UNTIL FINALLY KNOCKED OFF BY A BAG OF DOPE.
AND YOU CALL MY STORY CRAZY!?
BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.
3

THE WIZARD SEEING SOME EXPLAINATION WAS NECESSARY RELATES THE STORY OF HOW HE SUMMONED AND RESURRECTED OUR HERO.
Ah HEY WIZ... I'M SORRY BUT I JUST CAN'T HELP YOU. Y'SEE NO GODS SENT ME. I'M JUST MILD MANNERED PETER PEABRAIN, NOT VERY WEALTHY MAN ABOUT TOWN.
THAT'S INTERESTING SONNY, REALLY INTERESTING. BUT BEND A LITTLE CLOSER. WE'VE GOT A LITTLE PROBLEM.
Y'SEE THE QUEEN'S A BIT PUT OFF BECAUSE I'VE BEEN STALLING AROUND WITH THE OGRE TROUBLE FOR THE PAST 3½ YEARS. SO THE QUEEN VERY CALMLY THREATENED TO HAVE OUR GENITALS TORN OFF BY RABID WOLVES IF THIS EFFORT DOESN'T WORK.
GULP!
ER... Uh... SAY WIZ, I RE-EVALUATED MY DECISION AND HAVE DECIDED TO HELP YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT. Heh Heh
WELL WIZ? WHAT'LL WE DO?
WELL, SON LET ME TAKE A FEW TOKES ON THIS PIPE HERE AND MAYBE SOMETHING WILL COME TO ME.
I'VE GOT IT! I'VE GOT THE PERFECT PLAN!
OF-COURSE YOU JUST 'MIGHT' BE IN THE SLIGHTEST ITSY-BITSY LITTLEST BIT OF DANGER.
Oh WOW! I JUST REACHED AN ALL NEW HIGH!

OKAY, THERE'S THE OGRE. NOW 'ALL' YOU HAVE TO DO IS KEEP HIM BUSY WHILE I CONJURE YOU UP A MYSTICAL WEAPON THAT WILL SPEW FORTH FLAMES THAT WILL ENGULF AND DESTROY THE CREATURE!
I HOPE!!!
SNAP!
MUMBLE... MUMBLE... MUMBLE... MUMBLE...
SMASH
IT'S DONE, PETER!! HERE ... CATCH!!
THANK GOD.
THOUGT YA HAD ME eh, UGLY?!

SAY YOUR PRAYERS MONKEY-FACE.
BECAUSE NOW YOU DIE!
Click
Oh MY GOD!
KRICKET LIGHTER...
TAP TAP TAP
CRASH! TEAR BAM! PRRRRR SMASH! CRASH!
SHORTLY
PETER, THANK GOD YOU'RE ALIVE.
YOU CALL THIS LIVING?
Gulp... I... I'M AN OLD MAN, heh heh I JUST CAN'T DO THINGS LIKE I USED TO.
YOU CONSIDER A BUTANE LIGHTER AN AWESOME MYSTICAL WEAPON!?!!
WELL, WIZ, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
DON'T WORRY I'VE ANOTHER PLAN!
MORNING---NEXT DAY
THIS IS A REALLY EASY PLAN. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LURE THE OGRE TO THOSE ROCKS WHERE I'LL BE HIDING I CAN
...HYPNOTISE THE CREATURE AND RENDER IT HARMLESS.

WELL THERE IT IS... GUESS I BETTER GET ATTENTION, SO I CAN LEAD HIM TO THE TRAP.

HEY YA BIG APE COME HERE AND FIGHT!

Oh MY GOD. HE'S COMING!

WIZ!! ZAP HIM! WIZ?! FOR GOD'S SAKE... WIZ! WAKE-UP!!!
I'D BETTER HEAD FOR THE FOREST.
ZZZZZZZZ
ZZZZ

YOU CAN COME OUT NOW PETER THE OGRE'S GONE.
ARE YOU SURE? ANYTHING THAT KNOCKS DOWN HALF THE FOREST Puff Puff... TO GET ME IS CAPABLE OF ANYTHING.

PUFF... YA KNOW WIZ... Puff Puff Puff IF I WASN'T SO DAMN EXHAUSTED I THINK I MIGHT DO SOMETHING VIOLENT TO YOU!
Gulp! WHEN YOU'RE MY AGE YOU LOSE INTEREST IN THINGS EASILY.

BUT DON'T WORRY I'VE GOT AN EVEN BETTER IDEA.

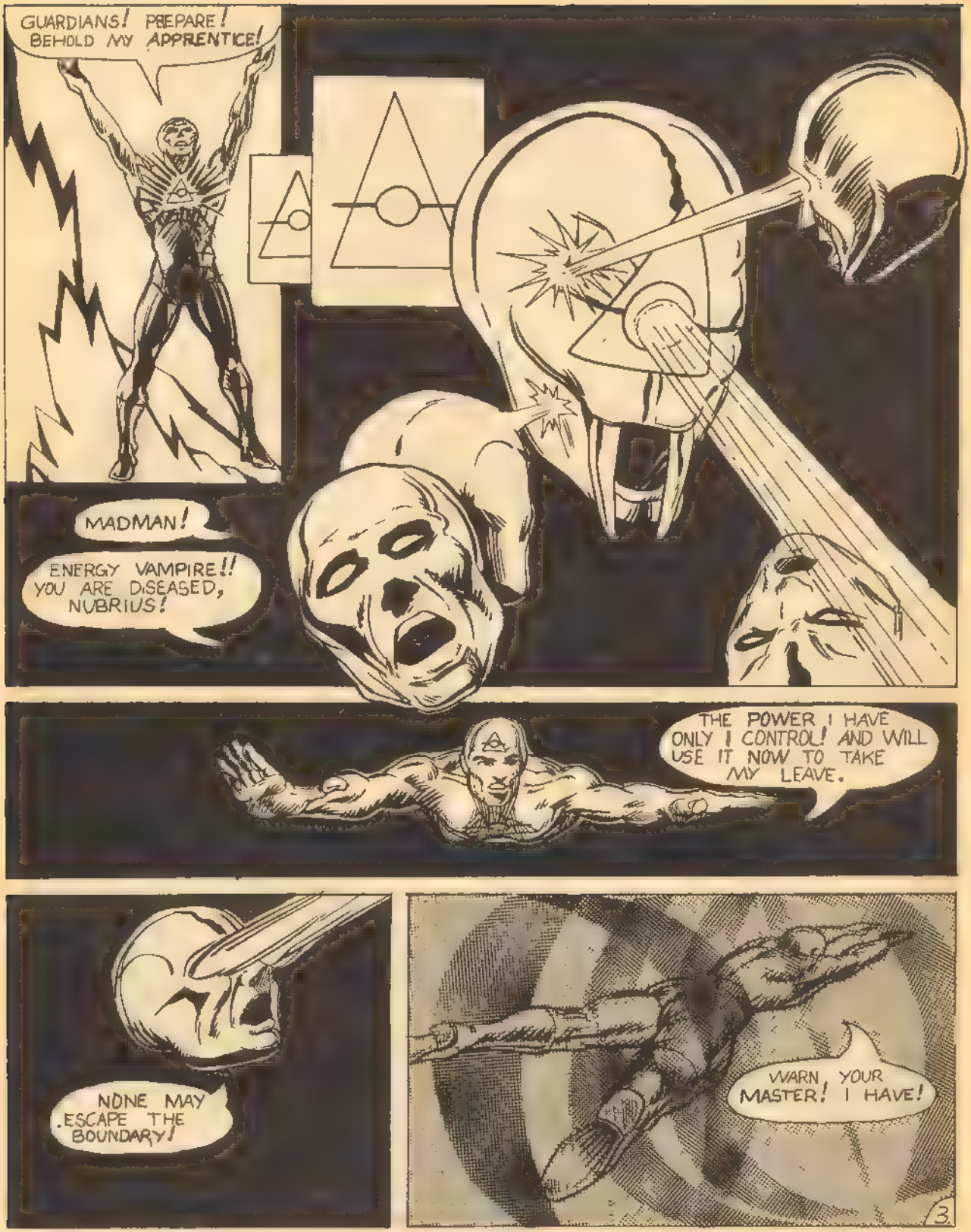
NOW THIS IS WHAT WE'LL DO...
THE HELL WITH THIS, I'LL HANDLE IT MYSELF.

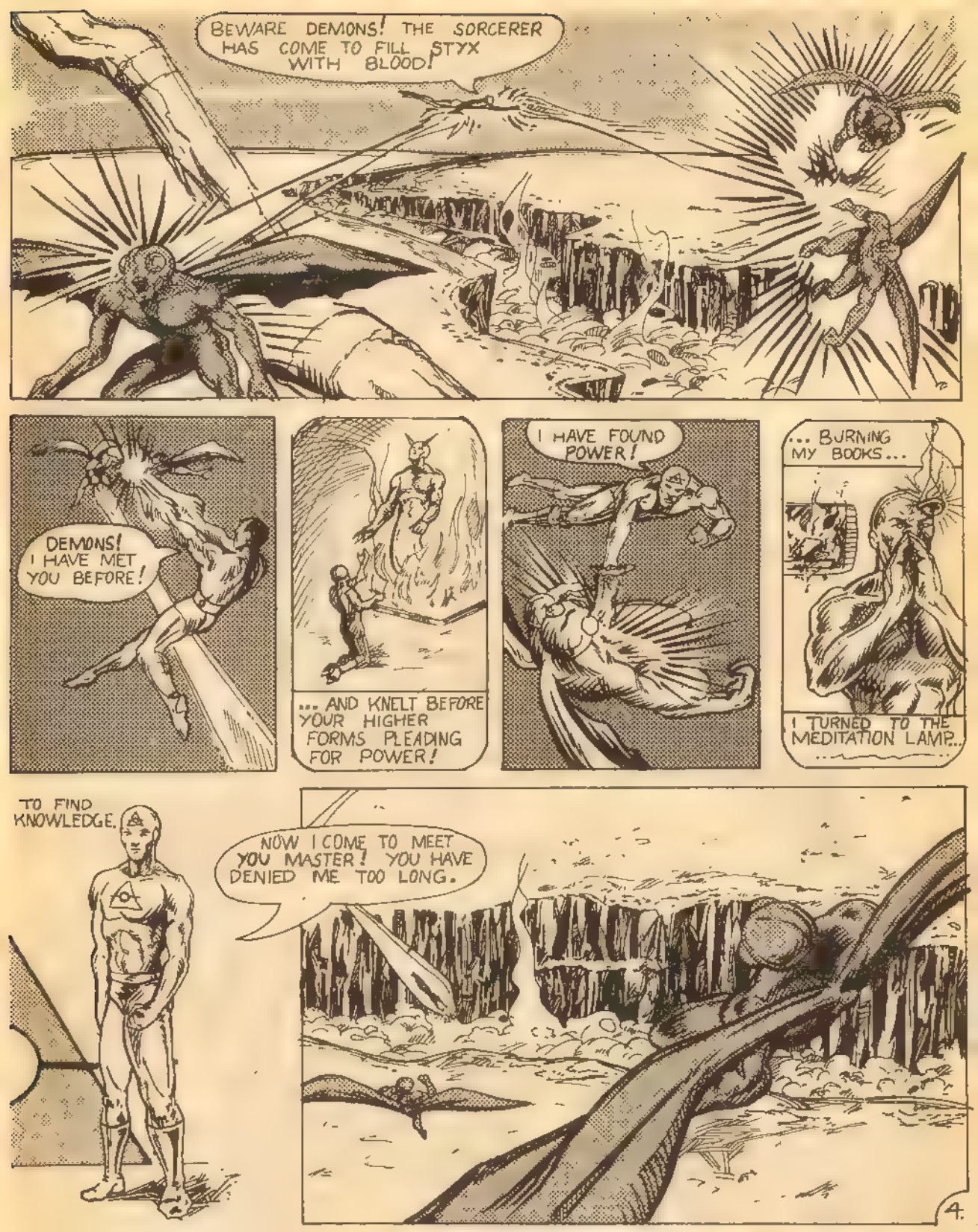
LATER....
WIZ I'VE DONE IT! I'VE DONE IT!! THE OGRE'S OFF OUR BACKS!
WHAT? HOW?
EASY. IT SEEMS THAT ALL THE OGRE WANTS IS TO TAKE THE QUEEN TO BED WHICH SEEMS A TRIFLING MATTER SINCE THE LIVES OF HER PEOPLE ARE AT STAKE. SO I LET HIM INTO THE CASTLE SO SHE COULD DO HER DUTY.
YOU IDIOT!! THE QUEEN'S SUPPOSED TO BE AN ETERNAL VIRGIN! TO EVEN SUGGEST WHAT YOU SAID WOULD BE TO BECOME INSTANTLY BEHEADED
Oh, MY GOD! WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO? THE OGRE'S IN THE QUEENS BED-CHAMBER.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'M PACKING!
WAIT A MINUTE. I'VE GOTTA STAY AND WARN THE QUEEN!!
NO! NO! IT'S MY WIZARDLY DUTY.
ARE YOU CRAZY? LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
SAY QUEEN, I'VE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU....
WELL....
er.. NO...
WELL YOU WORTHLESS OLD WIZARD, IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU REPORTED TO ME. HAVE YOU TAKEN CARE OF THE OGRE?
THAT DOES IT, YOU WORTHLESS, NO-GOOD STUPID, LAZY, PILE OF DUNG!
YOU'RE FIRED!
YOU LOSE YOUR PENSION EVERYTHING! THE ONLY REASON I KEPT YOU THIS LONG WAS BECAUSE MY FATHER LEFT YOU TO ME IN HIS WILL! THE SENILE OLD GOAT!
BUT I...
NOW SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE? I'M TIRED FROM WASTING MY BREATH ON YOU. I'M GOING TO MY BED-CHAMBER! SO SAY - WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY QUICKLY!!
NEVER MIND.
WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR US, WIZ? WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO? WHER ARE WE GOING?
KNOW ANY GOOD BROTHELS?
Ye Old Pub 4 Miles
Bimbida

THE FINAL BARRIER! SOME SAY DEATH! BUT WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE TO A BEING OF NEAR INFINITE POWER? FOR SUCH A BEING DEATH HAS NO HOLD! THERE IS BUT ONE RISK AND IT IS HIS VERY NATURE THAT FORCES HIM TO TAKE IT! YET OBLIVION IS INEVITAB_E WHEN ONE ENTERS INTO THE...
PACT

STORY — PENCILS by...
ALEX MARCINISZYN
EMBELLISHMENT — LETTERS
KEVIN SIEMBIEDA

TOO MANY... MUST GOAD THEM... TO RASH ACTION!
STOP OR BE DESTROYED!
HERE'S MY ANSWER!
HERE IS MINE!
BEHOLD! HE WRAPS HIMSELF IN A SHROUD OF FORCE.
INVENTIVE. BUT IT WILL NOT PROTECT HIM!
FOOL!! ENERGY EXISTS TO BE USED!


GUARDIANS! PREPARE! BEHOLD MY APPRENTICE!
MADMAN!
ENERGY VAMPIRE!! YOU ARE DISEASED, NUBRIUS!
THE POWER I HAVE ONLY I CONTROL! AND WILL USE IT NOW TO TAKE MY LEAVE.
NONE MAY ESCAPE THE BOUNDARY!
WARN YOUR MASTER! I HAVE!
3


BEWARE DEMONS! THE SORCERER HAS COME TO FILL STYX WITH BLOOD!
DEMONS! I HAVE MET YOU BEFORE!
... AND KNELT BEFORE YOUR HIGHER FORMS PLEADING FOR POWER!
I HAVE FOUND POWER!
... BURNING MY BOOKS...
I TURNED TO THE MEDITATION LAMP...
TO FIND KNOWLEDGE.
NOW I COME TO MEET YOU MASTER! YOU HAVE DENIED ME TOO LONG.

WE WELCOME YOU, NUBRIUS. AND WE PROMISE NOT TO PAMPER YOU AS DID THE GUARDIANS!
COME THEN! ONE AND... ALL!
NO! I FORB.D.
GREETINGS, NUBRIUS.
HAIL SATAN!
SO THE INSECT HAS COME. THE PACT HAS DRAWN IT!
MOCK ME NOT! SERPENT!
ALL RETURN TO ME! I AM THE KEY. I AM POWER HERE!
I AM AWARE AND READY.
THEN SPEAK! WHAT IS IT I'M BOUND TO GRANT YOU?
I WANT TO BE...
...THE DEVIL!
NNOOOOOO!

FUNKY-OUT!
PART II
YO-YO
KABOOM!
A SELF-PROMOTIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT
© Joel Stolinsky 1977
I LIKE TO TELL STORIES . . . WITH PICTURES !

THE ADVENTURES OF THE GARGOYLE AND PUNKIE-MY-EYE

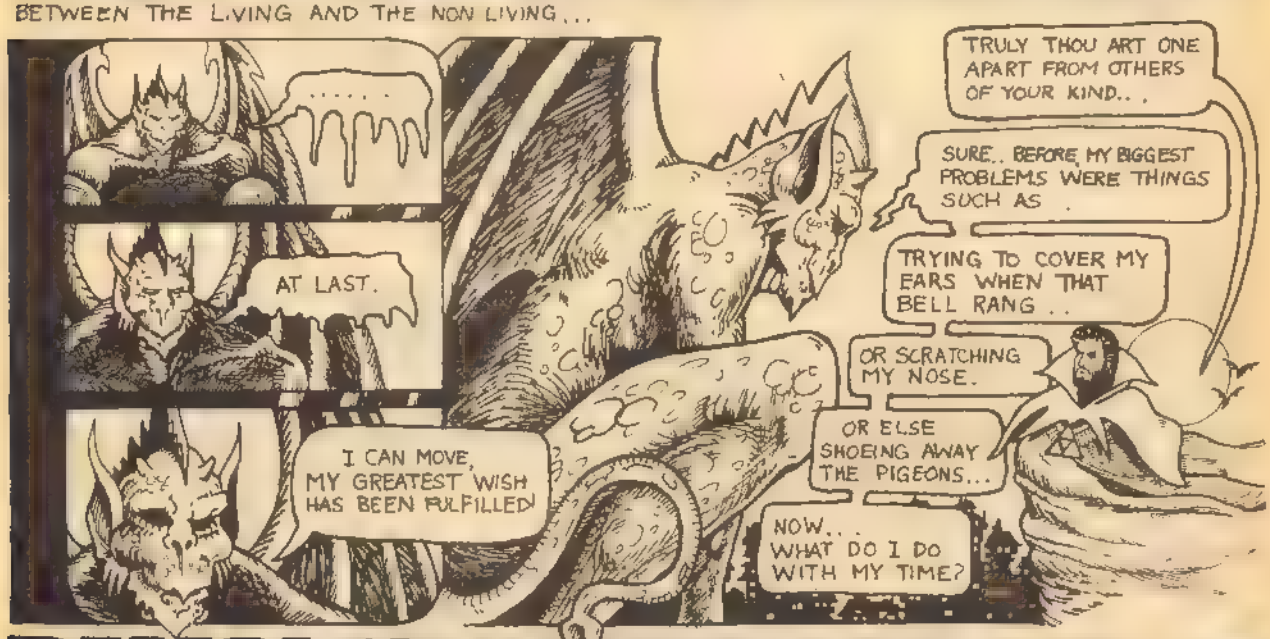
ALL NEW NO REPRINTS

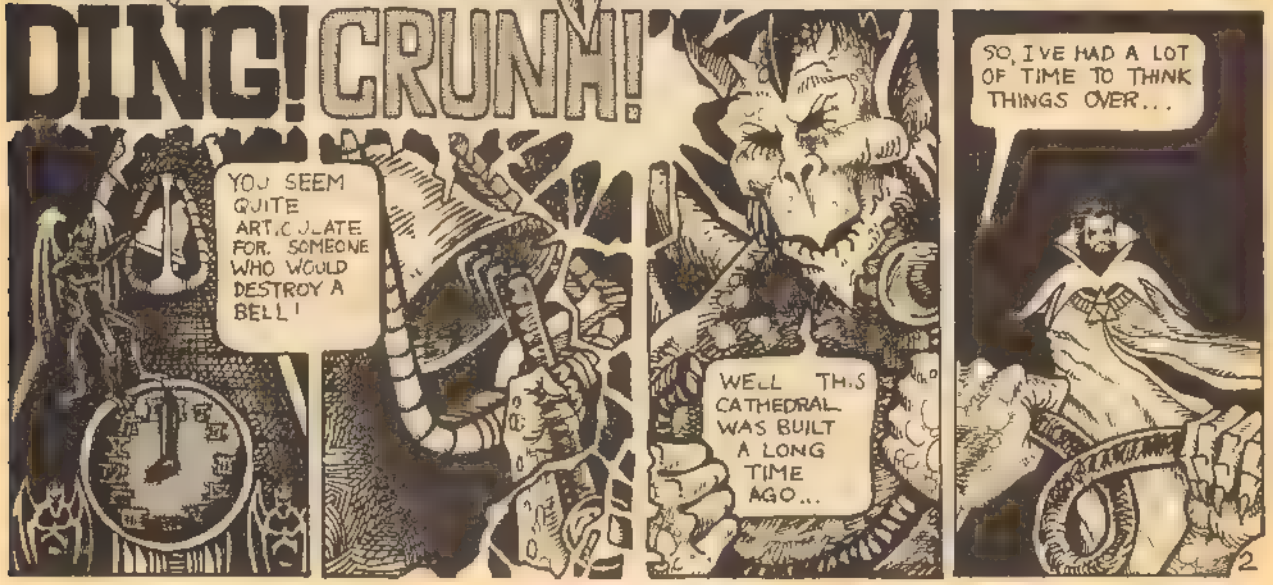
A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE CLOCK TOLLS MIDNIGHT... AT THE TOP OF AN INFAMOUS FRENCH CATHEDRAL, THE GUARDIAN OF THE EYE OF CREATION SEEKS A WAY TO REPAY A DEBT...

THE GARGOYLE AND PUNKIE-MY-EYE, CREATED BY JOEL W. STOLINSKY

SORCERER IN THE NIGHT... PART-I:

HIS SEARCH IS ENDED... HE HAS FOUND ONE WHO HAS EXISTED FOR CENTURIES SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN THE LIVING AND THE NON LIVING...


.....
AT LAST.
I CAN MOVE, MY GREATEST WISH HAS BEEN FULFILLED
NOW.. WHAT DO I DO WITH MY TIME?
OR ELSE SHOEING AWAY THE PIGEONS...
OR SCRATCHING MY NOSE.
TRYING TO COVER MY EARS WHEN THAT BELL RANG..
SURE.. BEFORE MY BIGGEST PROBLEMS WERE THINGS SUCH AS
TRULY THOU ART ONE APART FROM OTHERS OF YOUR KIND..


DING!
CRUNK!
YOU SEEM QUITE ARTICULATE FOR SOMEONE WHO WOULD DESTROY A BELL!
WELL THIS CATHEDRAL WAS BUILT A LONG TIME AGO...
SO, I'VE HAD A LOT OF TIME TO THINK THINGS OVER...

THAT IS OBVIOUSLY TRUE BUT YOU WILL NEED ONE OF THIS WORLD TO GUIDE YOU

POP!

POP!

I WILL DIRECT YOU TO YOUR APPOINTED COMPANION, BUT FIRST...

...I HAD BEST ADORN YOU IN A SOMEWHAT MORE TRADITIONAL RAIMENT... TO... ER... OFFSET YOUR...AH... APPEARANCE... "CHUCKLE"

WILL SHE BE SURPRISED! HEH HEH IT'LL SERVE HER RIGHT YES THIS IS JUST PERFECT!

HEY THESE ARE NICE DO CLOTHES REALLY MAKE THE PERSON?

WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, COULD I GET A COUPLE OF SUITS FOR...AH SPECIAL OCCAISIONS?

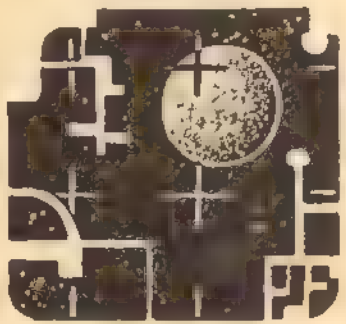
COME MY FRIEND, IT IS TIME FOR US TO GO.

YEAH WELL GOOD BYE FELLAS.

...I'LL DROP YOU A LINE IF I GET A CHANCE!

ON JULY 21, 1969, THE UNIVERSE SAW TRANQUILITY BASE FOR THE FIRST TIME .. "CLICK!"..

PART: 2

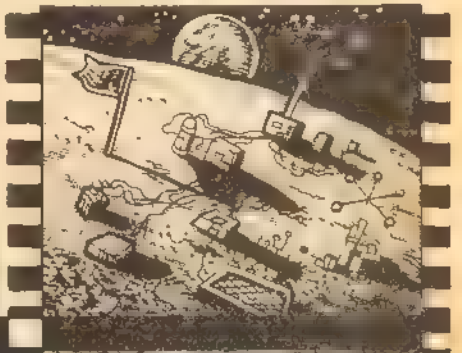


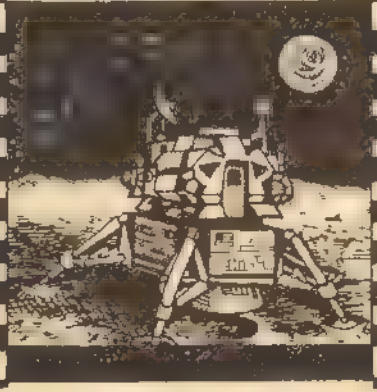
GARGOYLE'S DELIGHT!....

HERE MEN FROM THE PLANET EARTH FIRST SET FOOT UPON THE MOON... WE CAME IN PEACE

WHEN NEIL ARMSTRONG STEPPED ON THE MOON, HE SAID.. "ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN ... ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND!"

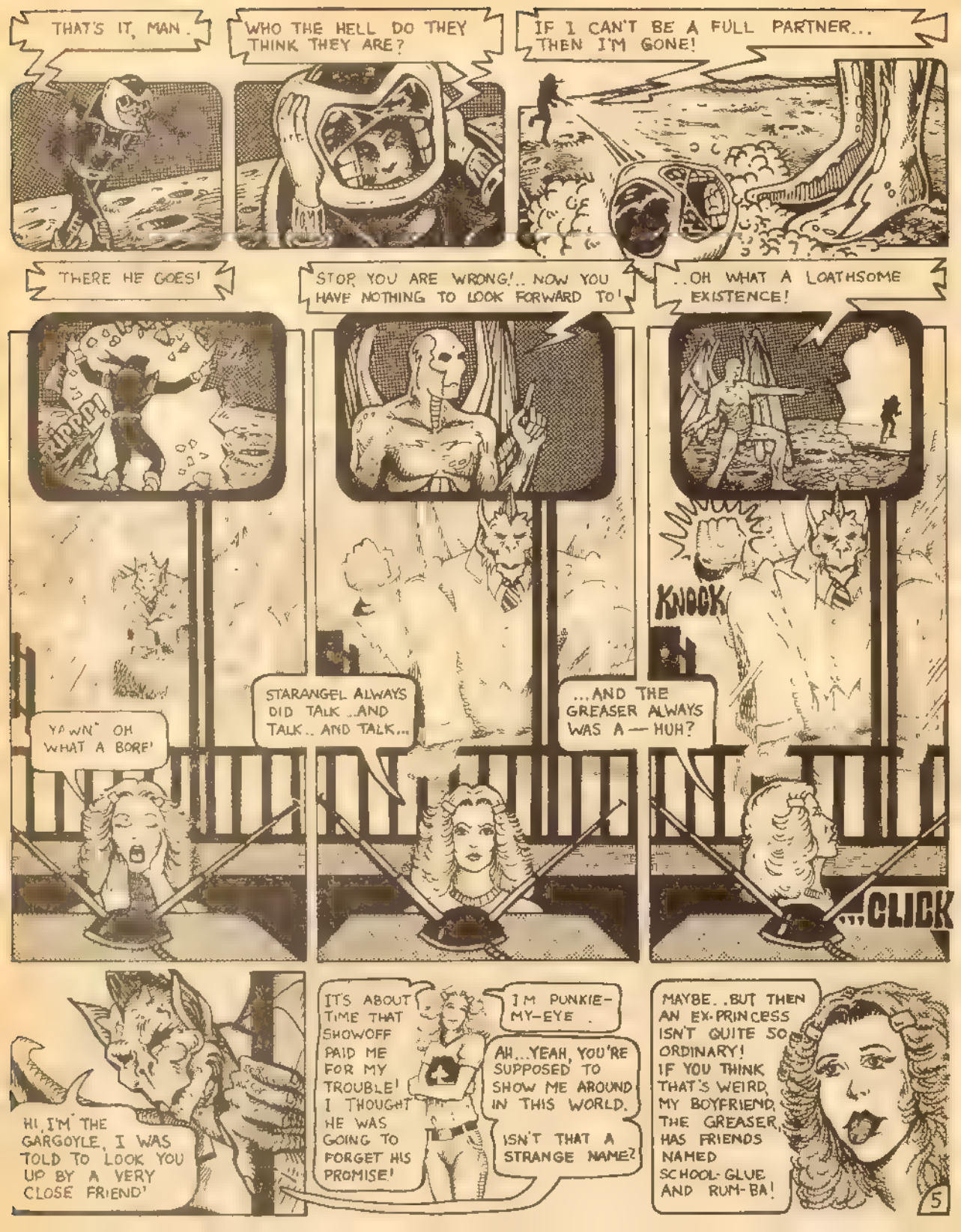
BUT TODAY THINGS HAVE CHANGED! MANNED SPACE TRAVEL HAS SLOWED DOWN TO A STANDSTILL ... "CLICK".

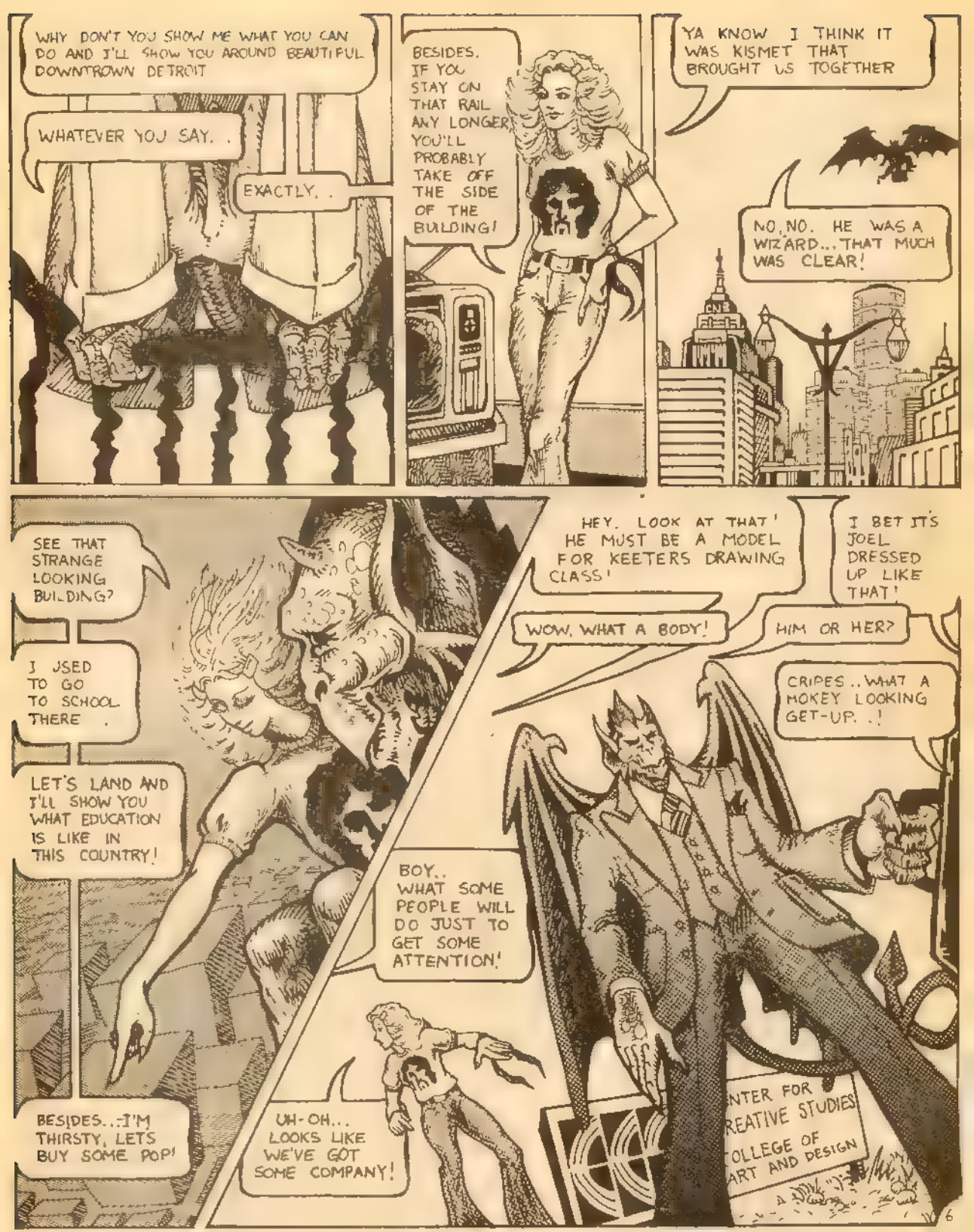




ALL WE REMEMBER NOW, OF JULY 20, 1969 IS THE LITTER THATS STREWN ON THIS HISTORIC LANDING SITE — ALL WE REMEMBER IS THE GARBAGE...

...FUNNY HOW WE ALWAYS ALTER AND REDUCE ANY SCIENTIFIC VALUES INTO GARBAGE. WE CAME IN PEACE... AND IN IGNORANCE!

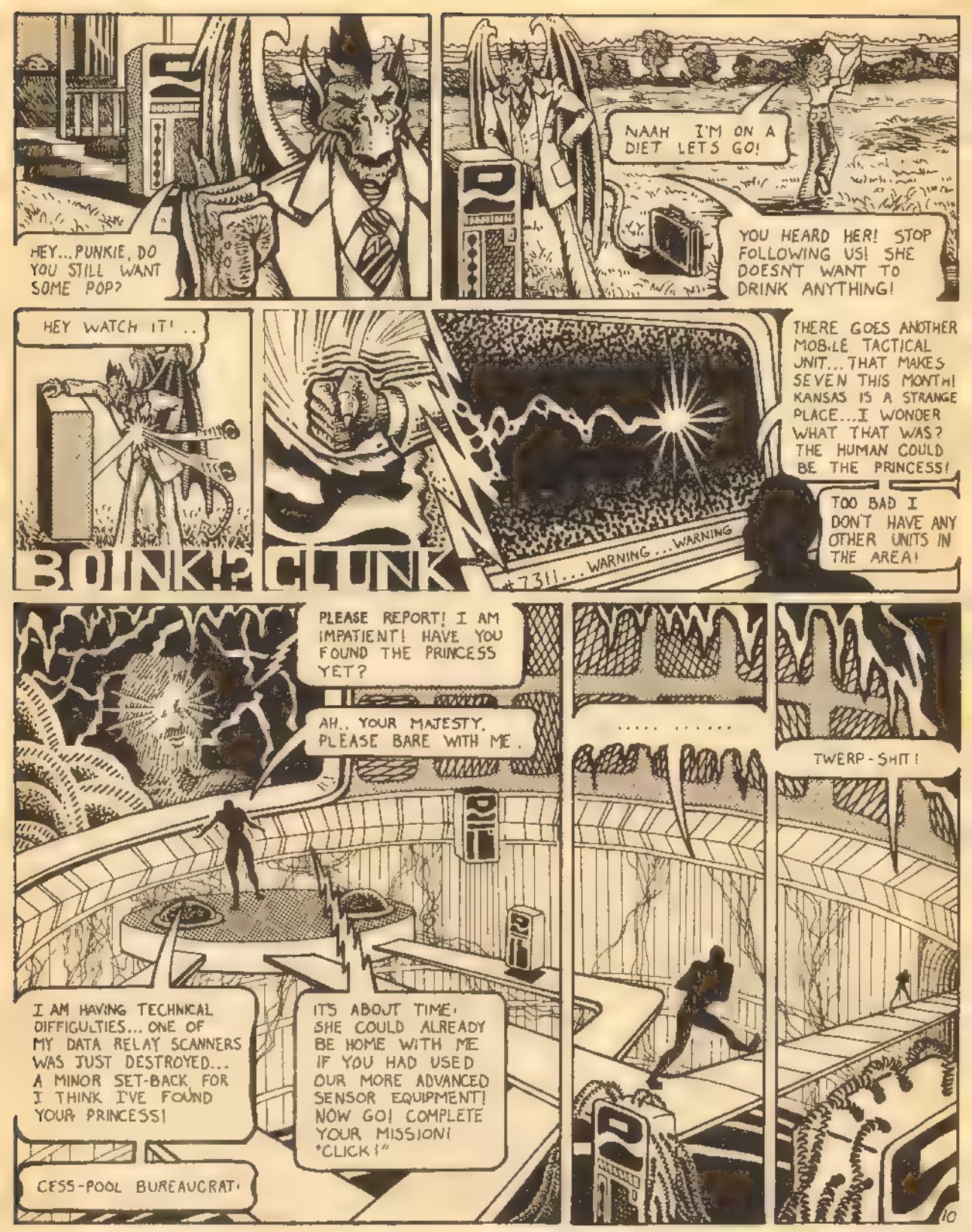

THAT'S IT, MAN.
WHO THE HELL DO THEY THINK THEY ARE?
IF I CAN'T BE A FULL PARTNER... THEN I'M GONE!
THERE HE GOES!
STOP, YOU ARE WRONG!.. NOW YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO!
..OH WHAT A LOATHSOME EXISTENCE!
KRRR!
KNOCK
YAWN OH WHAT A BORE!
STARANGEL ALWAYS DID TALK ..AND TALK.. AND TALK...
...AND THE GREASER ALWAYS WAS A — HUH?
...CLICK
HI, I'M THE GARGOYLE, I WAS TOLD TO LOOK YOU UP BY A VERY CLOSE FRIEND'
IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT SHOWOFF PAID ME FOR MY TROUBLE! I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO FORGET HIS PROMISE!
I'M PUNKIE-MY-EYE.
AH...YEAH, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SHOW ME AROUND IN THIS WORLD.
ISN'T THAT A STRANGE NAME?
MAYBE..BUT THEN AN EX-PRINCESS ISN'T QUITE SO ORDINARY! IF YOU THINK THAT'S WEIRD, MY BOYFRIEND, THE GREASER, HAS FRIENDS NAMED SCHOOL-GLUE AND RUM-BA!
5


WHY DON'T YOU SHOW ME WHAT YOU CAN DO AND I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN DETROIT
WHATEVER YOU SAY. .
EXACTLY. .
BESIDES, IF YOU STAY ON THAT RAIL ANY LONGER YOU'LL PROBABLY TAKE OFF THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING!
YA KNOW I THINK IT WAS KISMET THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER
NO, NO. HE WAS A WIZARD... THAT MUCH WAS CLEAR!
SEE THAT STRANGE LOOKING BUILDING?
I USED TO GO TO SCHOOL THERE .
LET'S LAND AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT EDUCATION IS LIKE IN THIS COUNTRY!
BESIDES..I'M THIRSTY, LETS BUY SOME POP!
HEY. LOOK AT THAT! HE MUST BE A MODEL FOR KEETERS DRAWING CLASS!
I BET IT'S JOEL DRESSED UP LIKE THAT!
WOW, WHAT A BODY!
HIM OR HER?
CRIPES..WHAT A HOKEY LOOKING GET-UP. .!
BOY.. WHAT SOME PEOPLE WILL DO JUST TO GET SOME ATTENTION!
UH-OH... LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT SOME COMPANY!
NTER FOR
REATIVE STUDIES
OLLEGE OF
ART AND DESIGN

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
COME ON!..
WOULD YOU COME ON ALREADY?
WHY? THIS IS FUN! THEY ACT LIKE THEY'VE NEVER SEEN A GARGOYLE BEFORE!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR POP?
HEY, RUSS....CAN YA DIG THAT DUDE?
UH-HUH HE MUST BE ONE O' THEM SUPER-SONIC HEE-ROWS! DUDN'T IT?
...HEY THOSE WINGS ARE FOR REAL! WHO THE HECK WAS THAT?
ARE YOU HUNGRY? MAYBE WE SHOULD GET SOME FOOD.
WHAT IS. HUNGRY? FOR THAT MATTER WHAT IS FOOD?
...HUNGRY, ER..HUNGER IS WHEN YOUR TUMMY GROWLS ON ACCOUNT OF ITS EMPTY.. FOOD IS WHAT YOU FILL IT WITH...
AND THIS IS GREEKTOWN, THEY HAVE A LOT OF GREEK RESTAURANTS HERE...
Detroit Free Press
KANSAS UFO?

WANTED
LOOK MA...GODZILLA!
SHUT YO MOUTH! DON'T ENCOURAGE THEM!
...HMMM...I DON'T THINK I HAVE A TUMMY! AT LEAST NOTHING FEELS EMPTY..I CAN GROWL THOUGH IF YOU WANT ME TO...
FORGET IT, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT MORE COMPANY!
WOW! ...NOW THATS CUTE!
HI THERE... JEEZ, YER A BIG ONE..
. I'D SURE LIKE TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO . WOW!
WELL, I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU!
HIT THE ROAD JACK...THAT HUNK OF ROCK IS STRICKLY AC/DC — WHA..
HI THERE!
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
HOW ABOUT YOU, MY DEAR? WITH STRANGE BEDFELLOWS LIKE THAT..
. YOU'D PROBABLY ENJOY ANY LITTLE THING I COULD THINK OF ..
OH BROTHER! ...GAR... PUT HIM IN THAT LITTLE RESTAURANT... HE LOOKS HUNGRY
TYPICAL OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION, ALWAYS PLAYING HARD TO GET...
THIS CITY IS NOT WHERE ITS AT
WHERE WHATS AT?
WE'VE GOT TO GO WHERE WE CAN COMMAND RESPECT...WHERE WE CAN OPERATE AS...AH, INTERNATIONAL ADVENTURERS .
WE'VE GOT TO GO WHERE WE CAN LIVE IN PEACEFUL CONFUSION
ISN'T THERE CONFUSION HERE?
AS WHAT?
...WE'RE MOVIN TO CALIFORNIA!
PUNKIE.. I'M CONFUSED!
OOOW ..I THINK SHE LIKES ME!
OOOH..MY STARS!

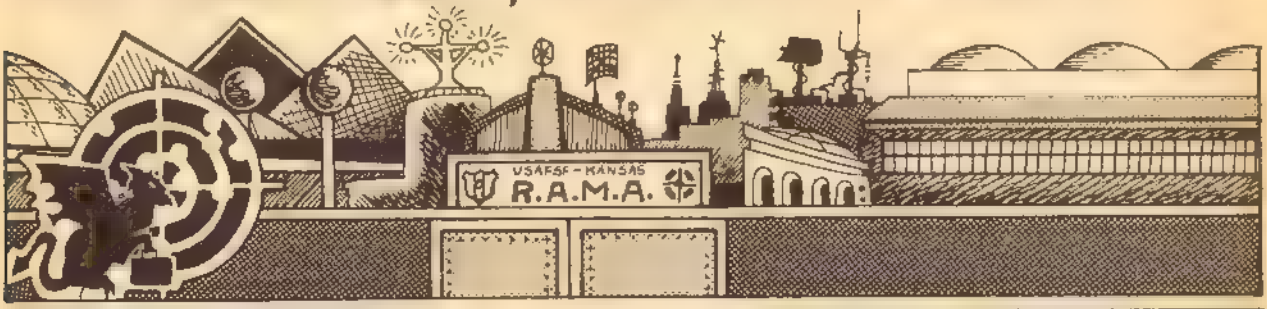
EAT HERE
GAS
PUNKIE'S PLIGHT
I AM A LINEMAN FOR THE COUNTY
AWWW..
UFO SEEN
JUST ONCE, I'D LIKE TO SEE SOMETHIN' OUTTA THE BLUE THAT MAKES THE PAPERS...
YELLOW BRICK ROAD REPAIR
...OF COURSE I DON'T PUT GOOFBALLS IN MY OATMEAL SO I PROBABLY WOULDN'T SEE ANY FLYIN' NUZZBOMBS!
JEEZUZ GAWD O'PETE
IT'S THE DEVIL!
HEY.. WHERE'S HE RUNNING TO IN SUCH A BIG HURRY?
DOROTH' STILL MISSING!
AUNTIE EM WORRIED!
EVIDENTLY, HE'S NEVER SEEN A GARGOYLE BEFORE... WAIT, WHATS THIS?
I FIGGERED THEY'D BE BACK BUT NOT THIS SOON
WHO ARE "THEY"? IS THIS CALIFORNIA?
NO BUT THIS IS WHERE IT'S AT! THIS IS GREAT.. AND THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW I'M HERE... SHAZOWIE!... BOY, TALK ABOUT KISMET!
WHO ARE "THEY"? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
KANSAS NEWS
7TH GIRL MISSING
RUBY SLIPPERS FOUND
BOY, WILL THEY BE SURPRISED! HEH, HEH!
WILL SOMEBODY PLEASE TELL ME WHO "THEY" ARE?

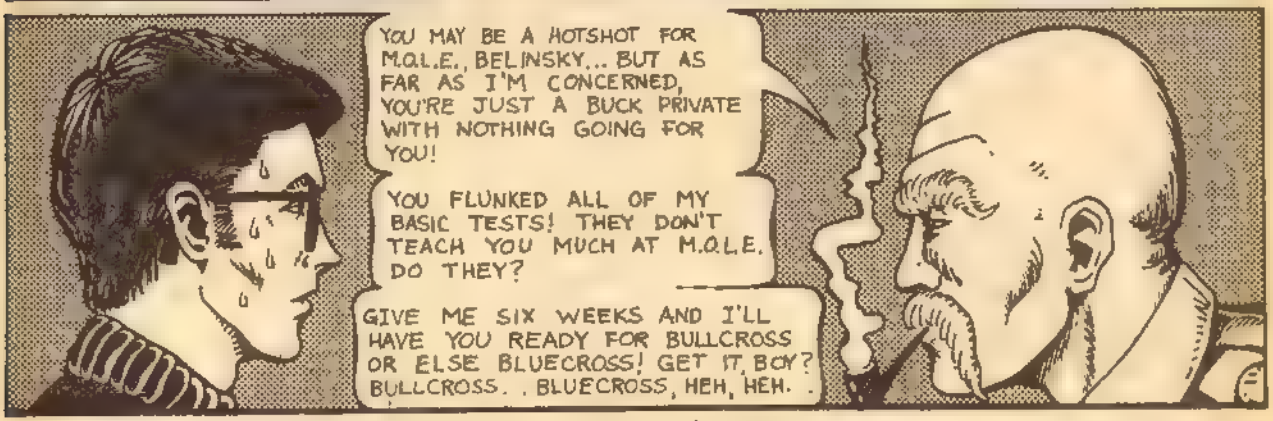

HEY...PUNKIE, DO YOU STILL WANT SOME POP?
NAAH I'M ON A DIET LETS GO!
YOU HEARD HER! STOP FOLLOWING US! SHE DOESN'T WANT TO DRINK ANYTHING!
HEY WATCH IT! ..
BOINK!?
CLUNK
#7311... WARNING ... WARNING
THERE GOES ANOTHER MOBILE TACTICAL UNIT... THAT MAKES SEVEN THIS MONTH! KANSAS IS A STRANGE PLACE...I WONDER WHAT THAT WAS? THE HUMAN COULD BE THE PRINCESS!
TOO BAD I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER UNITS IN THE AREA!
PLEASE REPORT! I AM IMPATIENT! HAVE YOU FOUND THE PRINCESS YET?
AH.. YOUR MAJESTY, PLEASE BARE WITH ME.
I AM HAVING TECHNICAL DIFFIGULTIES... ONE OF MY DATA RELAY SCANNERS WAS JUST DESTROYED... A MINOR SET-BACK FOR I THINK I'VE FOUND YOUR PRINCESS!
IT'S ABOUT TIME! SHE COULD ALREADY BE HOME WITH ME IF YOU HAD USED OUR MORE ADVANCED SENSOR EQUIPMENT! NOW GO! COMPLETE YOUR MISSION! *CLICK!*
CESS-POOL BUREAUCRAT!
.....
TWERP-SHIT!

AHHH YA BLONDES ARE ALL ALIKE!
WHY DOES HE HAVE TO BE SO.. SO PARTICULAR?
I KNEW IT! THIS IS THE ONLY ESTABLISHED HIDEAWAY THEY HAVE ON EARTH... THEY HAD TO COME HERE!
ARE WE GOING TO MEET THEM SOON?
SOON ENOUGH..
...BUT YOU BETTER LET ME GO FIRST...
...IF MY...FRIENDS ARE HOME, WE CAN SURPRISE THEM... YOU WAIT BY THAT CUCUMBER TREE UNTIL I GIVE A SIGNAL TO FOLLOW!
SHE SURE IS NICE, BUT I WISH SHE WAS A BIT LESS CONFUSING.. HMMM, I GUESS SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING!
I SURE HOPE I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING..
HI THERE, I'M THE GARGOYLE ..WHAT'S THE HAPPS?
..I GUESS TREES DON'T HAVE MUCH TO TALK ABOUT!
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT WHEN SHE INSULTS ME? CUCUMBER TREE INDEED!
...I HOPE HER LEAVES FALL OFF !
...NOW IS THAT NICE TO SAY?... BY THE WAY, WHAT IS A CUCUMBER?

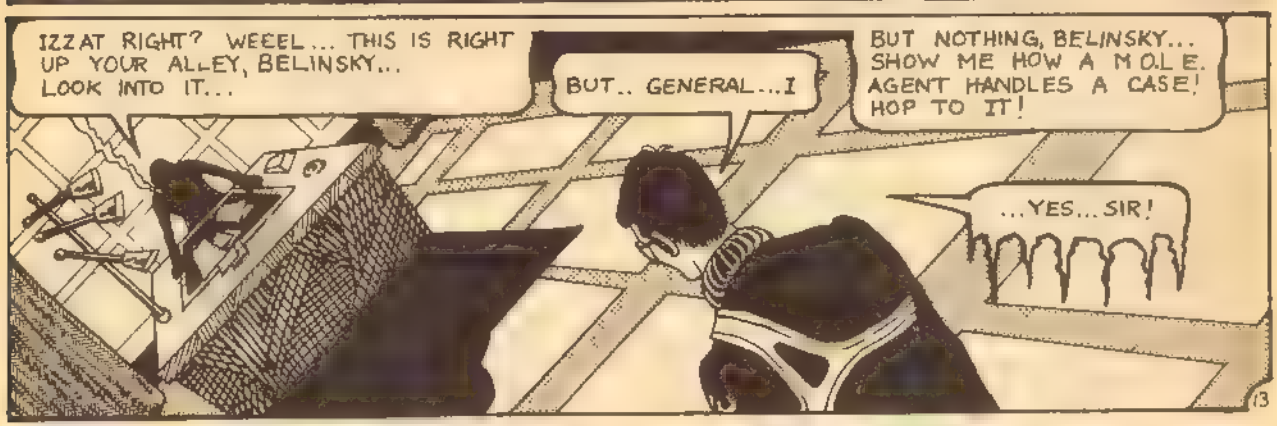
EEEEEAAAAAHHHHHHUUUUUUUUUU
HMMM... THAT MUST BE PUNKIE'S SIGNAL! DO ME A FAVOR, WOULD YOU...
KEEP WATCH OUT HERE WHILE
...I GO MEET SOME OF PUNKIE'S FRIENDS...
PUNKIE!!! WHERE ARE YOU!?
COME OUT, COME OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE... HEY!... I WONDER WHAT THAT IS OVER THERE?
IT LOOKS LIKE A CLUE
SOMETHING HAS STOLEN PUNKIE... BUT WHAT?
SHE COULD BE PLAYING A JOKE, OR MAYBE SHE'S JUST PLAYING..
...NO, SHE WOULDN'T DO A THING LIKE THAT, WOULD SHE? NO!... SHE'S MISSING!
MY HUMAN IS MISSING... NOW WHAT DO I DO?
DAH-DA-DA-DUM...?

PART FOUR: OOOH, WOTTA SIGHT.....




YOU MAY BE A HOTSHOT FOR M.O.L.E., BELINSKY... BUT AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'RE JUST A BUCK PRIVATE WITH NOTHING GOING FOR YOU!
YOU FLUNKED ALL OF MY BASIC TESTS! THEY DON'T TEACH YOU MUCH AT M.O.L.E. DO THEY?
GIVE ME SIX WEEKS AND I'LL HAVE YOU READY FOR BULLCROSS OR ELSE BLUECROSS! GET IT, BOY? BULLCROSS.. BLUECROSS, HEH, HEH..

YES SIR.. BUT MY——
BUT NOTHING, BOY! WHEN YOU'RE WORKING FOR ME, YOU DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD!
BUT, GENERAL .I'M NOT IN THE MILITARY...
YOU'RE ASSIGNED TO THIS BASE?
YES SIR!
WEEEL THEN YOU'RE WORKING FOR ME! NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED...
EXCUSE ME, GENERAL BULLCROSS, THERE'S AH, A YOUNG LADY OUT HERE WHO CLAIMS SHE HAS SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THOSE UFO SIGHTINGS AND THOSE MISSING GIRLS. . SHE SAYS THERE'S A CONNECTION...


IZZAT RIGHT? WEEEL... THIS IS RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY, BELINSKY... LOOK INTO IT...
BUT.. GENERAL...I
BUT NOTHING, BELINSKY... SHOW ME HOW A M.O.L.E. AGENT HANDLES A CASE! HOP TO IT!
...YES...SIR!

. AND ALL THESE GIRLS WERE IN THESE GIANT TEST TUBES!
...AH, RIGHT, WITH THE SPACESHIP AND THE ALIENS?
ALIENS
I KEEP TELLING YOU, THERE WAS ONLY ONE ALIEN, BUT HE WAS SURROUNDED BY FLOATING VENDING MACHINES!
HUH?.. DOESN'T THAT SOUND A LITTLE CRAZY?
OKAY. .NOW, DID YOU HAVE TO PUT MONEY IN THESE MACHINES TO GET THEM TO FLY?
THAT'S EXACTLY MY POINT! MISS... AND YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE YOU? YOU'RE A LONG WAY FROM HOME, AREN'T YOU?
YOUR NAME IS PUNKIE-MY-EYE AND YOU CAME TO KANSAS LOOKING FOR SPACEMEN. .
OH YOU MUST BELIEVE ME.
WOULD I LIE TO YOU?
..WELL.. I
YOU WILL LOOK INTO IT, PLEASE?
YOUR ALLEGATIONS.."SIGH" CERTAINLY REQUIRE SOME INVESTIGATING...
OH .YOU'RE SO MASTERFUL!
..YEAH!
YOU! HOW DID YOU FIND YOUR WAY IN HERE?
HI THERE...I'M THE GARGOYLE, I'M LOOKING FOR MY HUMAN, HAVE YOU SEEN HER?
ACCURSED MONSTER! OBVIOUSLY THE PRINCESS SENT YOU TO PREVENT US FROM TAKING HER TO HER TRUE HOME!
A SIMPLE YES OR NO WILL SUFFICE!

WHAT? YOU! SO, THE PRINCESS IS GOING TO PUT UP A FIGHT! VERY WELL, IF IT'S A FIGHT YOU WANT... IT'S A FIGHT YOU'LL GET!
ALL UNITS... CONVERGE, MAIN CONTROL ROOM... INTRUDER ALERT!
GROK?
WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS THIS?
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT IS GOING ON?
WARNING ALIEN INVADER, ALL UNITS CODE 03-701963 STAND BY FOR FURTHER ORDERS, SUBJECT IS NOT
SENSOR PROBE... ANIMAL.... NEG. VEGETABLE.... NEG. MINERAL.... NEG. SUBJECT...
HEY!... WHAT IS THIS? YOU MUST BE BEHIND ALL THOSE FUNNY VENDING MACHINES...
...BUT WHAT KIND OF GAME IS THIS?... I'M NOT THIRSTY! I'M JUST LOOKING FOR MY HUMAN!...
WAIT!
...MAYBE THIS IS WHAT HUMANS CALL... "FUN"... YEAH! ... YEAH! ... YEAH!

UNITS 930Z, 820Q, 712R C3PO, R2D2, THX-1138, REGROUP!
I SAID, REGROUP!
..FORGET IT!
MORT.
WHERE'S MORT?
I DO NOT KNOW WHO OR WHAT YOU ARE.. MONSTER...
..BUT IF THE EX-PRINCESS THINKS YOU CAN STOP US FROM TAKING HER BACK TO HER REAL HOME, SHE IS WRONG IN HER ASSUMPTION!
NO ONE CAN STAND AGAINST AN AGENT OF THE HAZE EMPIRE... MORT...
TANGO MORTIFY PRONTO!

...IT COULD BE A HOAX!
OKAY BUT THIS DOESN'T PROVE ANYTHING... ANYBODY COULD HAVE MADE THESE TRACKS..
WOULD I LIE TO YOU?
UH.. NO...OF COURSE NOT, IT'S JUST THAT THE GENERAL IS A HARD MAN TO CONVINCE... WE HAVE TO GET SOME REAL PROOF... SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE FAKED!
YEAH?..WELL...
...HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET ANY REAL EVIDENCE UNLESS YOU BRING OUT SOME EXPERTS TO LOOK AROUND? HEY...IS THE GROUND SHAKING?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I HAVE TO HAVE SOME HARD EVIDENCE FOR SENDING A PROBE UNIT BACKED WITH ARMED PERSONNEL...WAIT A MINUTE!... THE GROUND IS SHAKING!.WHAT THE...
HECK? AN EARTHQUAKE?
AWWW SOMEBODY MUST HAVE TOLD HIM!
...WELL? IS THAT PROOF ENOUGH FOR YA?
ALRIGHT...ALRIGHT, ALREADY...I'LL CALL THE GENERAL!

HEY... THAT WAS FUN!
LET'S SEE THAT ONE MORE TIME... OKAY...WATCH OUT!
HMMM... NOW WHERE COULD PUNKIE BE?
...PUTT...PUTT...POP...FIZZLE!
HEY... BUDDY DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG? I'M ONLY LOOKING FOR MY HUMAN!
TACO... BURRITO SUPREME!
...DANGER... CIRCUIT OVERLOAD--TEMPERATURE INCREASE: WARNING!

..DO THE GARGOYLE STOMP!
YEAH... YEAH...
DO THE GARG
..THAT WASN'T NICE!
. YEAH. YEAH .YEAH... DO-DO-DO, DO-DA-DA.
HEY...I DON'T WANT TO PLAY ANYMORE!
DO THE GARGOYLE STOMP!. YEAH ..YEAH. .
HEY . PAL...
THAT'S RIGHT, KIDS... IT'S THE LATEST, GREATEST DANCE CRAZE SWINGIN' AT THE NATION!
LEMME STRAIGHTEN YA OUT!

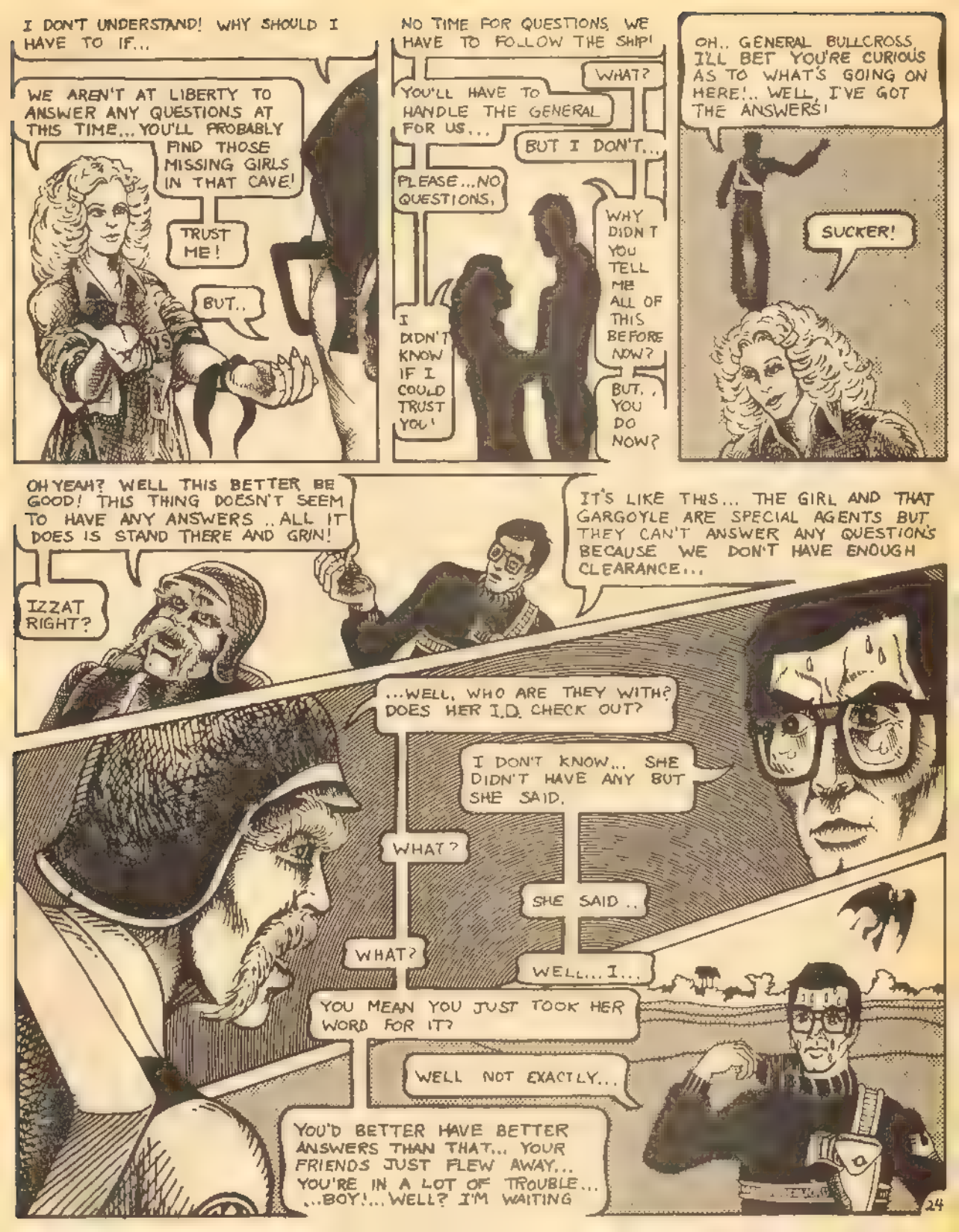
...SHAKE...
...RATTLE...
...AND ROLL...
CRISPY LITTLE FELLOW!
I AM... LEAVING NOW AND YOU WILL FORGIVE ME FOR SPEAKING ABRUPTLY...
BUT THE UNIVERSE GROWS SMALLER EVERYDAY...
...WARNING-MISSION COMPLETION--NEGATIVE:...*... HOW DO YOU SAY...
AND THE THREAT OF AGGRESSION BY ANY GROUP ANYWHERE WON'T GO UNOTICED!
...ON THIS WORLD?...ZILCH...KAPUT... NOPE...AH-UH-UHH...SORRY!

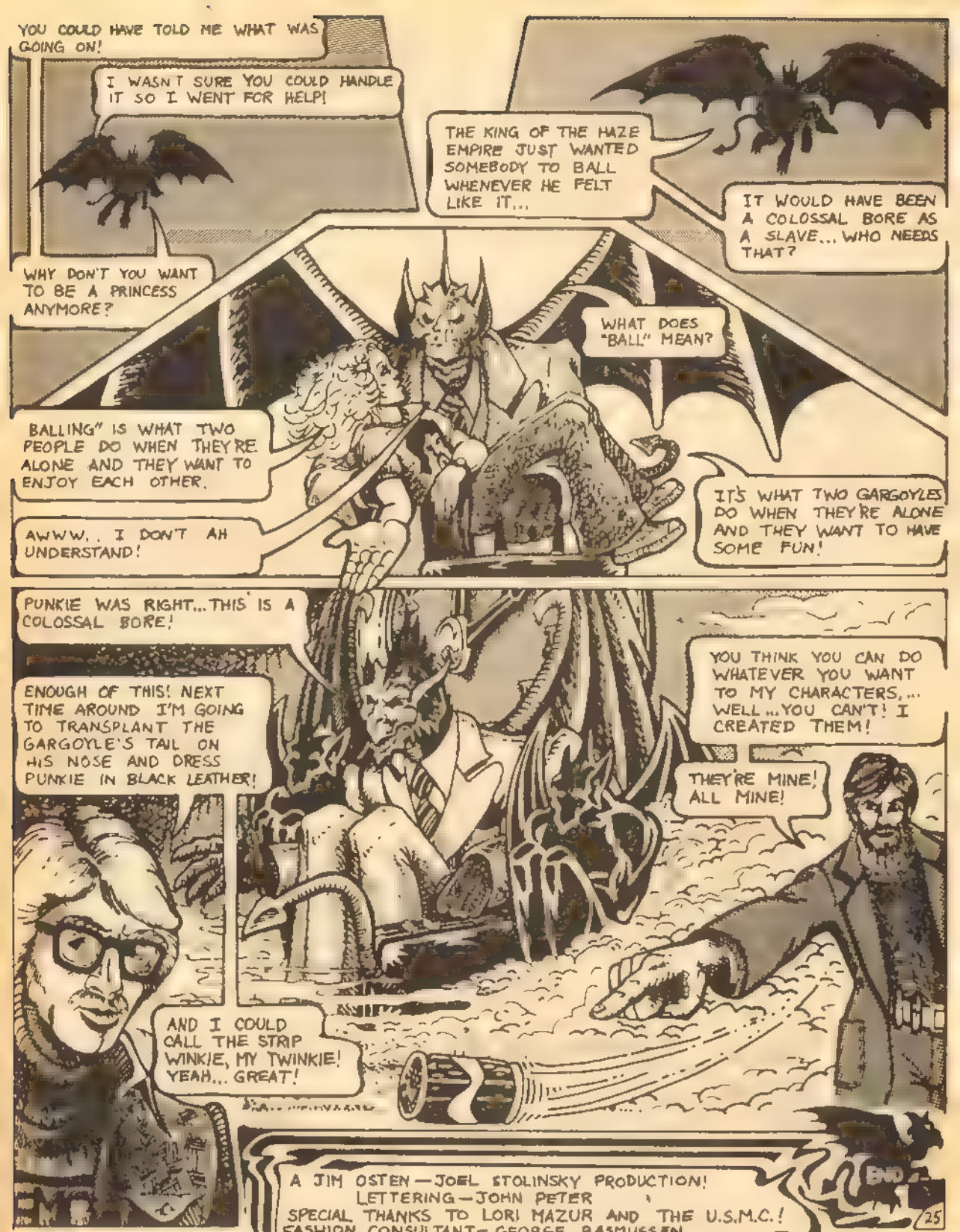
BOYOBOY WHAT A MESS THIS IS!
AM I EVER CONFUSED! I WONDER WHERE MY PUNKIE IS?
SO... MONSTER! YOU'VE FINALLY COME OUT OF YOU'RE HOLE! DON'T MAKE A MOVE OR IT'LL BE YOUR LAST!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THOSE GIRLS?
SPEAK UP YOU DEVIL! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
OH... HI THERE! ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL?

CHAPTER FIVE:
THE ENEMY TONIGHT IS THE GARGOYLE IN WHITE!
OR: DON'T SQUEEZE THAT TRIGGER, UNLESS YOU MEAN BUSINESS!

STOP! DON'T SHOOT! HE'S NOT THE ONE
NO... PUNKIE! GET BACK
I I CAN'T LOOK IT'S ALL MY FAULT "SOB" IF ONLY I HAD...
THERE, THERE! DOLL, IT'S ALL OVER
SHUT UP
STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT EXCHANGING GLANCES...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
OH THANK GOODNESS!
LOVERS AT FIRST SIGHT
I REALLY DON'T BELIEVE IT!
SAUL, LISTEN..

ATTENTION HOMEBASE.. AM RETURNING HOME, MISSION MUST BE CONSIDERED A FAILURE! MY DATA PROBES INDICATE THAT THE JIG IS UP!
WE COPY... YOUR SECTOR IS UNDER OBSERVATION BY OUR OTHER AGENTS. THEY ARE NO LONGER ON STAND-BY PHASE TWO-ALTERNATE PLAN IS NOW IN EFFECT!
TEAM TWO-COMMAND LEADER TO HOMEBASE: THE PRINCESS WILL NOT ESCAPE! ALL OF OUR OTHER AGENTS ARE BEING REPOSITIONED TO ACCOMMODATE NEW ATTACK PROCEDURES...
SO... MONSTER... YOUR FRIENDS ESCAPE WITHOUT YOU! IT'S OBVIOUS YOU AND THEY ARE FROM ANOTHER PLANET!
HUH?
SURRENDER WHILE YOU CAN! WE'VE GOT YOU SURROUNDED!
THE GARGOYLE AND I ARE SPECIAL OPERATIVES FOR A HIGHER POWER!...
WHAT?
IT WAS OUR JOB TO CRACK THIS CASE BEFORE IT GOT OUT OF HAND...
YOU?...AN-AND HIM?
THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO HERE... YOU'LL HAVE TO COVER FOR US...


I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO IF...
WE AREN'T AT LIBERTY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS AT THIS TIME... YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND THOSE MISSING GIRLS IN THAT CAVE!
TRUST ME!
BUT..
NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS, WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THE SHIP!
WHAT?
YOU'LL HAVE TO HANDLE THE GENERAL FOR US...
BUT I DON'T...
PLEASE...NO QUESTIONS,
I DIDN'T KNOW IF I COULD TRUST YOU!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ALL OF THIS BEFORE NOW?
BUT... YOU DO NOW?
OH.. GENERAL BULLCROSS, I'LL BET YOU'RE CURIOUS AS TO WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!.. WELL, I'VE GOT THE ANSWERS!
SUCKER!
OH YEAH? WELL THIS BETTER BE GOOD! THIS THING DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY ANSWERS .. ALL IT DOES IS STAND THERE AND GRIN!
IZZAT RIGHT?
IT'S LIKE THIS... THE GIRL AND THAT GARGOYLE ARE SPECIAL AGENTS BUT THEY CAN'T ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH CLEARANCE...
...WELL, WHO ARE THEY WITH? DOES HER I.D. CHECK OUT?
I DON'T KNOW... SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY BUT SHE SAID.
WHAT?
SHE SAID..
WHAT?
WELL... I...
YOU MEAN YOU JUST TOOK HER WORD FOR IT?
WELL NOT EXACTLY...
YOU'D BETTER HAVE BETTER ANSWERS THAN THAT... YOUR FRIENDS JUST FLEW AWAY... YOU'RE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE... ...BOY!... WELL? I'M WAITING


YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME WHAT WAS GOING ON!
I WASN'T SURE YOU COULD HANDLE IT SO I WENT FOR HELP!
THE KING OF THE HAZE EMPIRE JUST WANTED SOMEBODY TO BALL WHENEVER HE FELT LIKE IT...
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A COLOSSAL BORE AS A SLAVE... WHO NEEDS THAT?
WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO BE A PRINCESS ANYMORE?
WHAT DOES "BALL" MEAN?
BALLING" IS WHAT TWO PEOPLE DO WHEN THEY'RE ALONE AND THEY WANT TO ENJOY EACH OTHER.
IT'S WHAT TWO GARGOYLES DO WHEN THEY'RE ALONE AND THEY WANT TO HAVE SOME FUN!
AWWW.. I DON'T AH UNDERSTAND!
PUNKIE WAS RIGHT... THIS IS A COLOSSAL BORE!
YOU THINK YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO MY CHARACTERS,... WELL ...YOU CAN'T! I CREATED THEM!
ENOUGH OF THIS! NEXT TIME AROUND I'M GOING TO TRANSPLANT THE GARGOYLE'S TAIL ON HIS NOSE AND DRESS PUNKIE IN BLACK LEATHER!
THEY'RE MINE! ALL MINE!
AND I COULD CALL THE STRIP WINKIE, MY TWINKIE! YEAH... GREAT!
A JIM OSTEN—JOEL STOLINSKY PRODUCTION!
LETTERING—JOHN PETER
SPECIAL THANKS TO LORI MAZUR AND THE U.S.M.C.!
FASHION CONSULTANT—GEORGE RASMUSSEN
END
25

LETTERS?

Dear Alex,
I really think that A PLUS is a fantastic idea. An alternative to conventional comics should be attempted more often.
The problems are obvious. All overground comics are produced in New York and tend to stay with old ideas. New input is discouraged because they self-censor themselves with the stupid comics code.
Undergrounds have no censorship so they go hog wild and produce comics with no redeeming value. They owe it to themselves to print quality material. If they're not, then they should get the hell out of the business.
I truely hope that MEGATON keeps making innovative publications. A PLUS is but a first step, and remember, that's always the hardest.

Sincerely yours,
Maurice Hufnagel

P.S.
I hope you print a letters page for people like me.

....And that's just what was on our minds to include in this issue. We think that this is not just a page where the reader may have his (or her) say. It should be at least as important as the stories and art.
I regret that we only have a page this issue. Also, I hope Maurice and everyone else won't mind the fact that we had to edit their letters because of this. So, before I get too long winded ...

Dear Kevin and gang,
Marvelous! A+PLUS is a truly fine piece of art & work.
Number 1 is a very tight magazine and though you listed credits and bio.'s of all concerned I was wondering if you, who are the amateurs, is this your first concentrated story effort or is there other material that has been printed elsewhere?- the editing and layout, in my opinion, is of pro quality- not style but quality-
You see I passed the book around the house and each of my roommates found a different story they liked so on the whole it is a well balanced book and you should make every effort to continue- which leads to the second part-
What's next? Continuation of these characters or new ones? New artists or not? Do you plan to run a statement of a theme and goal for the magazine or are you guys playing it by ear? I hope in issue 2 you provide info on how well (or bad) the sales were for issue 1. Somehow I find this important to those who have shown interest-

Best of luck- great job
Fran Treviskni

....What's next!? Well Fran THE GARGOYLE AND PUNKIE MY EYE and PARAPHERNALIA are both set for a definite return. Other revivals are possible but we can't say for certain.
As far as new artists- yes! We've added several this issue and, hopefully, will continue to add more. We are overstaffed but new talent is always welcome.
Sales for issue one and related info are all covered in this issues editorial...

Dear Guys at MEGATON,
Monday, March 7th, I purchased A+PLUS between my English and Psychology classes.
I loved it! The best story was THE FOOL by BILL BRYAN. This was what comics should be like. The level of artistry was very high indeed. The art was a little weak in some places, but in some it rivaled the pro's for verve and ability. I have read overground and underground comics, the MARVEL and DARE. Black and Whites, and various fanzines, and I have to say that THE FOOL is one of the best stories I have ever read (and I've been reading comics for eleven years).
The next story I liked was TENDRILS OF THE MIND (a great title there) by KLVIN SIEMBIEDA. Artwise, the best sequences were on pages 4,12,16 and 22. Page 3 would have been good too, but I feel it needed more zip-a-tone on the top panels to add depth to the interior scenes. The strength of this story was in the plot and scripting. Lancaster's speeches were excellent. The rape scene (which could have been a complete gross-out) was handled with taste. The idea of doing a story with a schizophrenic character has occurred to me too but I don't think I could top this.
The deepness and cerebralness of these two stories were also the main ingredients in JOEL SKOLINSKY'S, THE STARGOD. The inks were a bit heavy in places, but Joel has a great sense of design but design that doesn't interfere with the story. His technique is similar to ALEX NINO's but where NINO's layouts are often cluttered to the point that they are hard to follow, JOEL uses layout to aesthetic and storytelling advantage. Joel is obviously influenced by JIM STARLIN's great CTHULOCK mythos, but JIM STARLIN is one of the best influences one could have. Just dig page eleven!
The rest of the issue was also very good. I didn't really like the cover, mostly because of the color. A single tone tends to be garish, especially red. It would probably be better to use simple grey-toning. The one page drawings were especially nice, I've always loved dreamy, airy scenes like these. The (my) consensus for this mag is that A+PLUS gets an A+ and this is only your first issue.

Sincerely,
John Camilleri

....Thank you John! It seems your choices were pretty much the same as the rest of our readers....

So mail all correspondence and suggestions to: LETTERS c/o Alex Marciniszyn 5492 Casper, Detroit, Mich. 48210.

NOTE: Special thanks to JOHN BENSON for his back cover design.

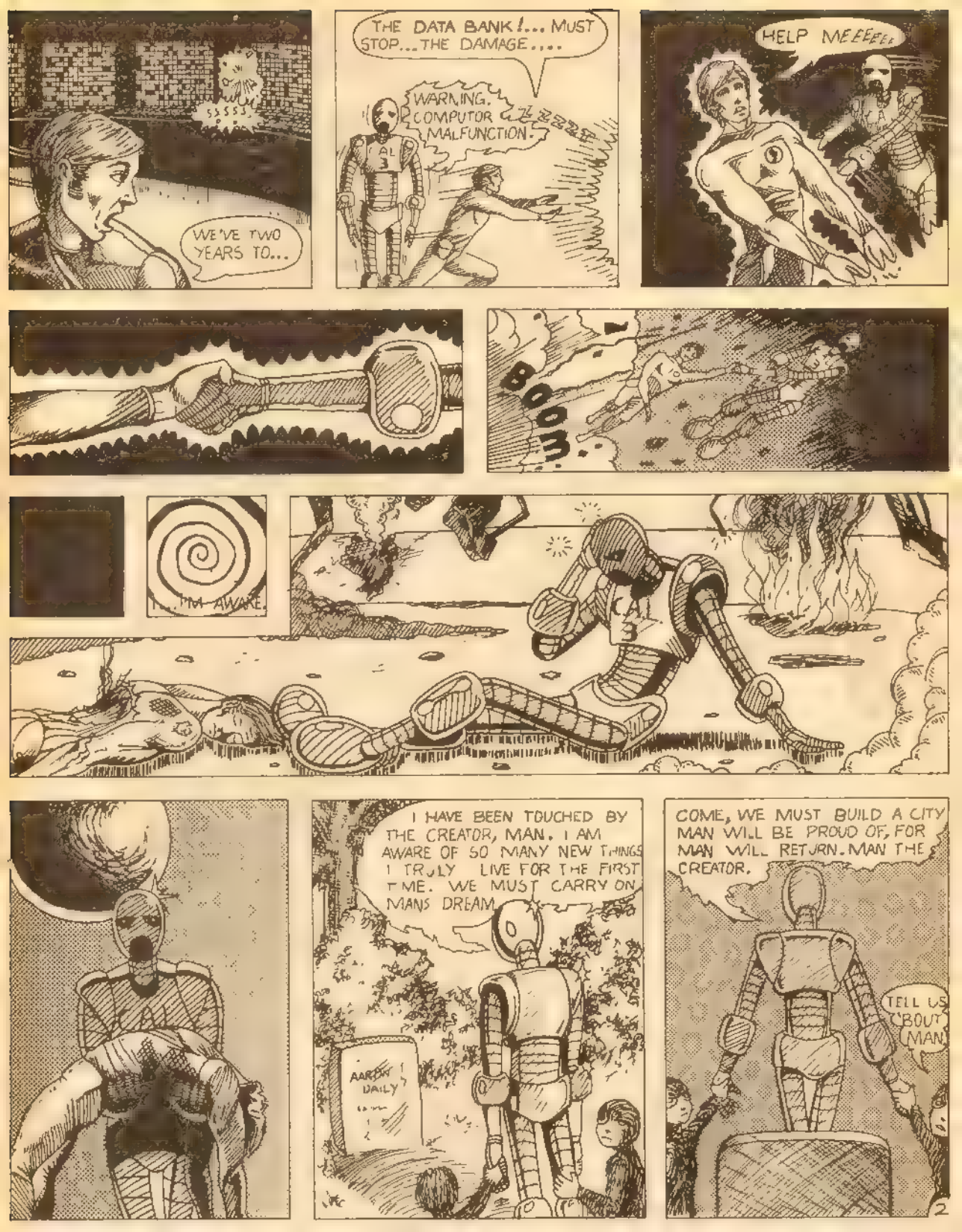
15 MILES UP!

WHEW POINT WE'SE ALMOST MADE IT!!
THERE IT IS, AT LAST, THE DEVIL'S GEM!!
AMEN!
CAPABLE OF GRANTING ANY WISH TO WHO-EVER MAY POSSESS IT!
EVEN THOUGH IT IS A LONG CLIMB CLIMB UP HERE...
I WONDER WHY IT HASN'T BEEN STOLEN YET?!
STORY - ART by...
PETER SIMON

EEYAH!!
WAIT, YOU'VE GOT THE GEM! WISH FOR A WEAPON, QUICK!!!
TH, THAT'S RIGHT!
I, I WISH F, FOR A SWORD WITH WHICH TO SLAY THIS OGRE!
POOF
HAHAA!
NOW, SUFFER MY WRATH, MONSTER!!
DAMMIT!
YOU RAVING FOOL, USE THE GEM TO CHANGE THE BEAST!
I, I WISH THE CREATURE WOULD BECOME BU, UH, A LITTLE BIRDIE!!
WHAM
POOF
WHEH, PANT, GASP, WHEEZE I M GLAD THAT'S OVER!!
YEAH!

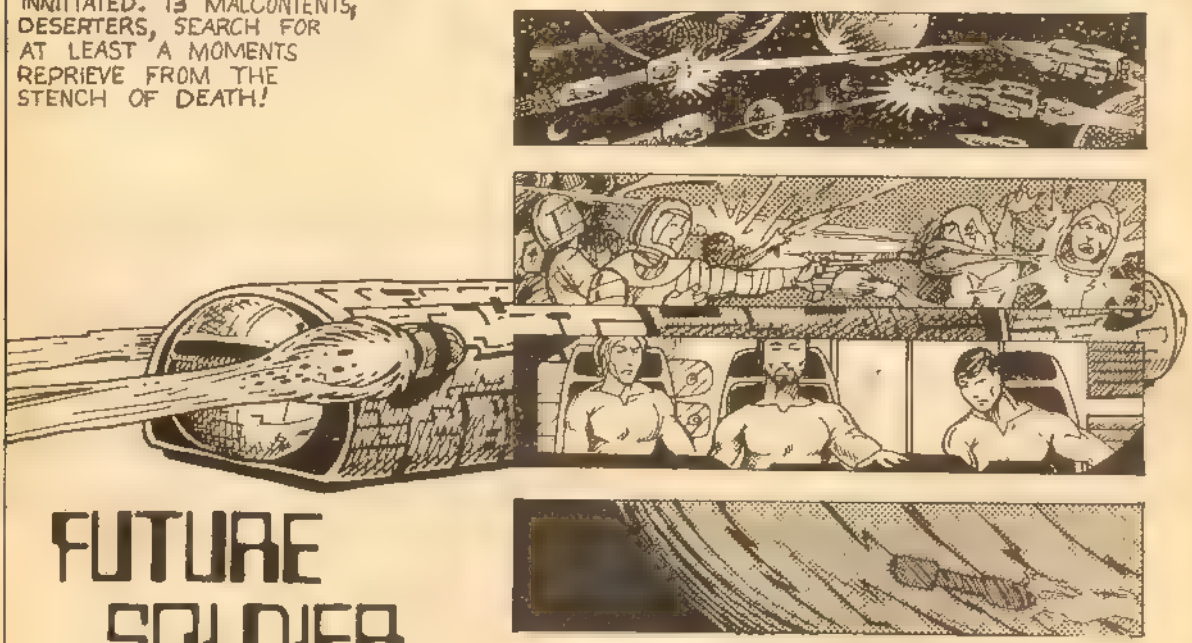
YOU IDIOT, OF ALL THINGS, A DAMN BIRD!
THAT GEM IS A CURSE IN YOUR HANDS!!
GIVE IT TO ME LEST WE BOTH BE KILLED!
NOW I SHALL PUT IT TO GOOD USE!
I WISH THE CREATURE WOULD VANISH INTO OBLIVION!
POOF
AAAEEEEE!!!
YOU STUPID B...
END.

PROLO
YES CAL 3, THIS PLANET IS A VIRTUAL PARADISE. IT'S A MIRACLE WE EVEN FOUND THIS PLANET HIDDEN BENEATH ITS LETHAL ACIDIC UPPER ATMOSPHERE.
TRUELLY AMAZING! A MULTI-LAYERED ATMOSPHERE OF THIN AND DENSE WHICH NEUTRALIZES EACH PRECEEDING LAYER RESULTING IN A FINAL OXYGEN ATMOSPHERE MUCH LIKE OUR OWN.
YES CAL, THIS IS QUITE A FIND!
CAL 3
AFFIRMATIVE.
COLONIZATION OF THIS WORLD IS NOT ONLY IDEAL, BUT SIMPLISTIC!
THE ONLY HUMANOIDS ARE THESE LITTLE BUGGERS. INNOCENT,... TRUSTING AS CHILDREN. THEY PICK UP ENGLISH QUICKLY TOO...
... ALTHOUGH THEIR THOUGHT PROCESSES SEEM LIMITTED TO A CHILDS MENTALITY.
Z
C
OH, BUT ENOUGH OF THESE IDOL MUSINGS. ITS OUR JOB TO BUILD THIS OUTPOST FOR THE RETURN OF THE COLONIZATION PARTY.
1.


SSSSS
WE'VE TWO YEARS TO...
THE DATA BANK!... MUST STOP...THE DAMAGE....
WARNING. COMPUTOR MALFUNCTION.
AL 3
HELP MEEEEEL
BOOM
I'M AWAKE.
CAL 3
I HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY THE CREATOR, MAN. I AM AWARE OF SO MANY NEW THINGS I TRULY LIVE FOR THE FIRST TIME. WE MUST CARRY ON MANS DREAM.
AARON'S DAILY
COME, WE MUST BUILD A CITY MAN WILL BE PROUD OF, FOR MAN WILL RETURN. MAN THE CREATOR.
TELL US 'BOUT MAN
2

A TINY WAR-SHIP IS BUFFETTED BY SOLAR WINDS; ITS OCCUPANTS CURSE AND PUSH ON. THEY HAVE GROWN TIRED OF THE WAR TWIXT WORLDS...NAY, GALAXIES! A WAR THAT HAS SPANNED THREE CENTURIES AND THREATENS TO SPAN A DOZEN MORE. A WAR NONE CAN REMEMBER WHICH SIDE INNITIATED. 13 MALCONTENTS, DESERTERS, SEARCH FOR AT LEAST A MOMENTS REPRIEVE FROM THE STENCH OF DEATH!

The Coming of Man

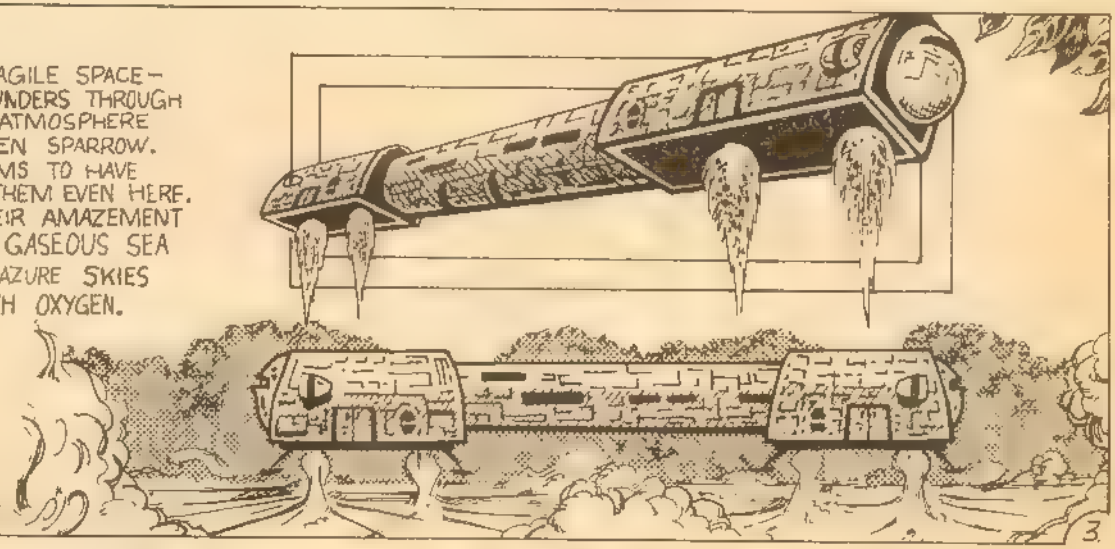


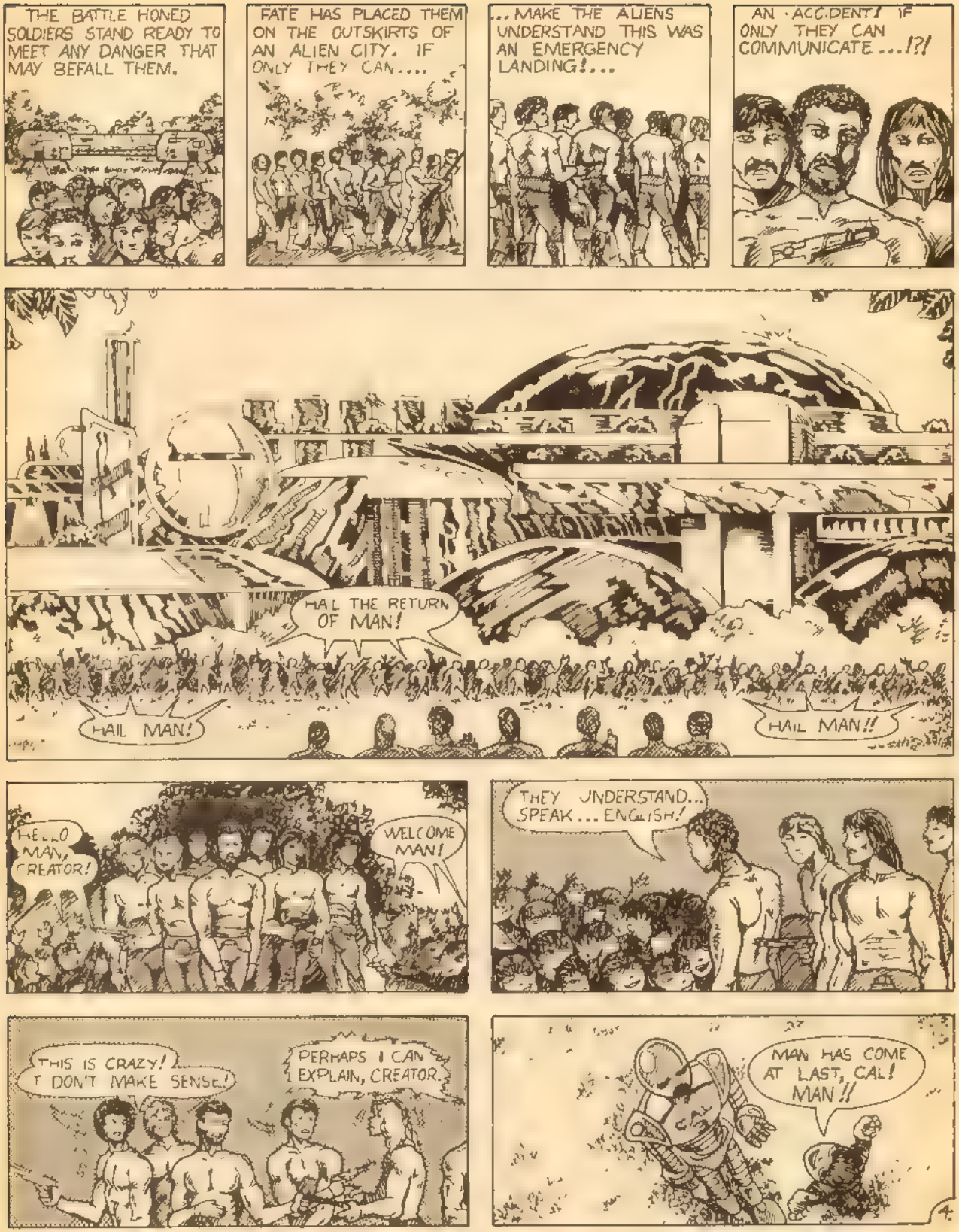
FUTURE SOLDIER

A SERIES CREATED BY ALEX MARCINISZYN

STORY: KEVIN SIEMBIEDA—ART: ED KWAITKOWSK.
INKS: KEVIN SIEMBIEDA (assisted by ED KWAITKOWSKI JAMES DOMBROWSKI and JOEL STOJNSKY)
LETTERS: K SIEMBIEDA — © A MARCINISZYN - K SIEMBIEDA 1977

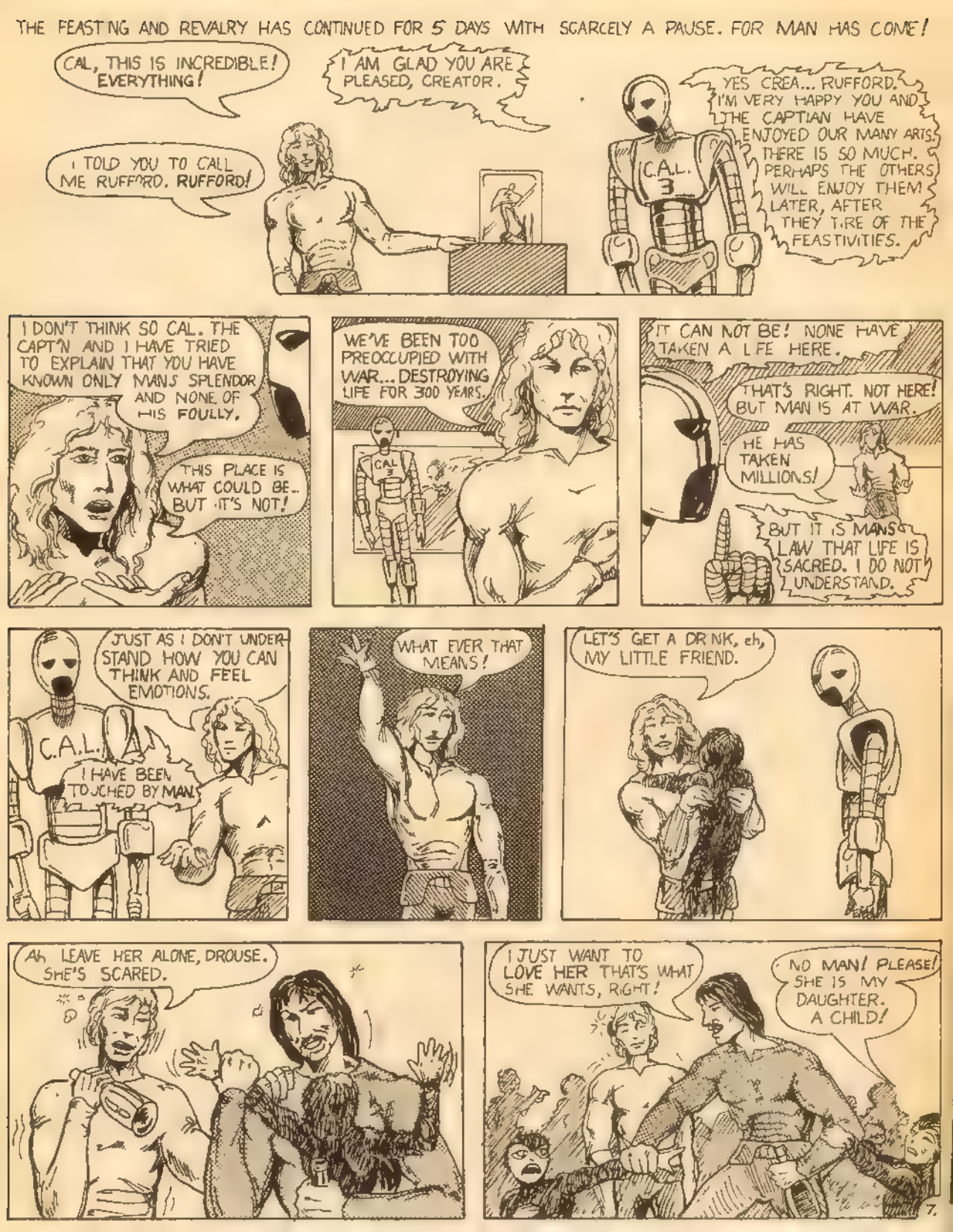
THE FRAGILE SPACE-CRAFT FLOUNDERS THROUGH THE FOUL ATMOSPHERE LIKE A FALLEN SPARROW. DEATH SEEMS TO HAVE FOLLOWED THEM EVEN HERE. YET TO THEIR AMAZEMENT THE FOUL GASEOUS SEA OPENS TO AZURE SKIES THICK WITH OXYGEN.




THE BATTLE HONED SOLDIERS STAND READY TO MEET ANY DANGER THAT MAY BEFALL THEM.
FATE HAS PLACED THEM ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF AN ALIEN CITY. IF ONLY THEY CAN....
...MAKE THE ALIENS UNDERSTAND THIS WAS AN EMERGENCY LANDING!...
AN ACCIDENT! IF ONLY THEY CAN COMMUNICATE ...!?!
HAIL THE RETURN OF MAN!
HAIL MAN!
HAIL MAN!!
HELLO MAN, CREATOR!
WELCOME MAN!
THEY UNDERSTAND... SPEAK ... ENGLISH!
THIS IS CRAZY! IT DON'T MAKE SENSE!
PERHAPS I CAN EXPLAIN, CREATOR.
MAN HAS COME AT LAST, CAL! MAN!!
4.

THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH TINMAN!
YOU'VE NOTHING TO FEAR. WE... I... HAVE WAITED FOR YOUR RETURN FOR OVER 300 YEARS!
RETURN?
YES. PRECOLONIZATION OUTPOST 57.
ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL US THAT THIS PLANET WAS MARKED FOR EARTH COLONIZATION BEFORE THE GREAT WAR.
I KNOW NOTHING OF ANY WAR. IT WAS MY DUTY TO PREPARE THIS OUTPOST FOR YOUR RETURN. I HOPE IT'S SATISFACTORY.
NO EARTH ROBOT EVER HAD THESE KINDA FACULTIES 300 YEARS AGO CAPT. IT'S A TRAP.
hmm
I AM #3 MODEL C.A.L. I HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY MAN. THERE'S NO TRAP, LORD MAN.
COME YOU MUST INSPECT OUR WORK. SEE IF THE CITY OF MAN MEETS YOUR APROVAL.
HOLD ME CREATOR!
TOUCH ME!
LOOK MAN HAS COME!
TH...THEY CONSIDER US GODS.
Yes, THEY DO!?!
OF-COURSE YOU ARE THE CREATORS OF LIFE AND BEAUTY. THIS CITY IS A TRIBUTE...
...TO YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS. IT IS FILLED WITH YOUR CREATIONS.
C.A.L. 3
5

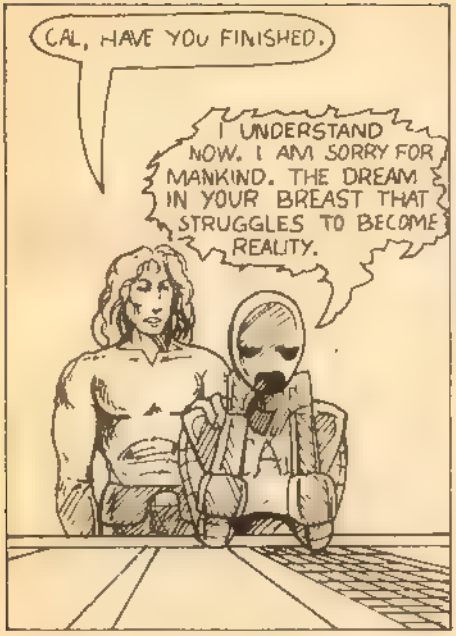
THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TOLD OF MAN FOR GENERATIONS. WE HAVE BASED OUR ENTIRE LIVES ON YOUR IDEALS. IT IS ALL THEY KNOW AND LOVE! NOW, AT LAST, THEY CAN MEET THE BEINGS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SPLENDOR.
IT'S INCREDIBLE!
FABULOUS!
SOMEHOW I NEVER THOUGHT MAN CAPABLE OF THIS.
OF-COURSE YOU HAVEN'T. THE WAR IS ALL WE'VE KNOWN.
C.A.L 3
NOT ALL...
SHUT UP, SISSY-BOY!!
ENOUGH!
IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE THE VESSEL RETURNING...
...TO EARTH WITH THE DATA MUST HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AT THE OUTSET OF THE WAR.
NO-ONE EVER KNEW ABOUT THIS PLANET! BUT... HOW COULD YOU AND THESE CHILD-LIKE ALIENS BUILD THIS CITY?
THE DRONE-ROBS OF-COURSE. THEY BUILT AND MAINTAIN IT. YOU CAN ASK QUESTIONS WHILE YOU DINE.
LET THE FEAST BEGIN!
6.


THE FEASTING AND REVALRY HAS CONTINUED FOR 5 DAYS WITH SCARCELY A PAUSE. FOR MAN HAS COME!
CAL, THIS IS INCREDIBLE! EVERYTHING!
I AM GLAD YOU ARE PLEASED, CREATOR.
I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME RUFFORD. RUFFORD!
C.A.L. 3
YES CREA... RUFFORD. I'M VERY HAPPY YOU AND THE CAPTIAN HAVE ENJOYED OUR MANY ARTS. THERE IS SO MUCH. PERHAPS THE OTHERS WILL ENJOY THEM LATER, AFTER THEY TIRE OF THE FEASTIVITIES.
I DON'T THINK SO CAL. THE CAPT'N AND I HAVE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT YOU HAVE KNOWN ONLY MANS SPLENDOR AND NONE OF HIS FOULLY.
THIS PLACE IS WHAT COULD BE.. BUT IT'S NOT!
WE'VE BEEN TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH WAR... DESTROYING LIFE FOR 300 YEARS.
CAL 3
IT CAN NOT BE! NONE HAVE TAKEN A LIFE HERE.
THAT'S RIGHT. NOT HERE! BUT MAN IS AT WAR.
HE HAS TAKEN MILLIONS!
BUT IT IS MANS LAW THAT LIFE IS SACRED. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
JUST AS I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN THINK AND FEEL EMOTIONS.
C.A.L.
I HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY MAN.
WHAT EVER THAT MEANS!
LET'S GET A DRINK, eh, MY LITTLE FRIEND.
AH LEAVE HER ALONE, DROUSE. SHE'S SCARED.
I JUST WANT TO LOVE HER THAT'S WHAT SHE WANTS, RIGHT!
NO MAN! PLEASE! SHE IS MY DAUGHTER. A CHILD!
7.

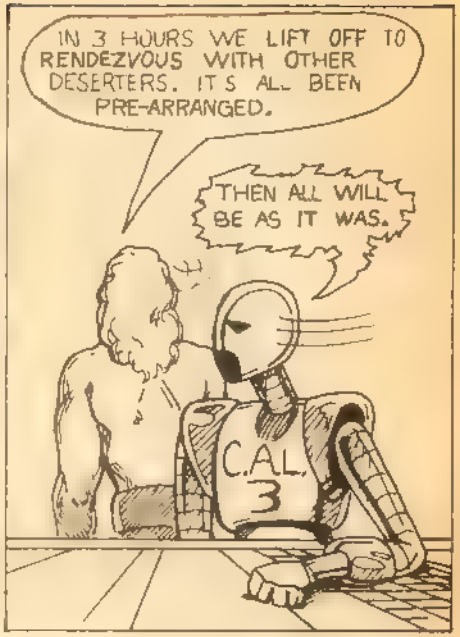
LET HER GO, DROUSE! THAT'S AN ORDER!!
WELL, LOOK WHO'S TRYING TO GIVE ORDERS. WE AREN'T IN THAT DAMN ARMY NOW. YOU'VE NO AUTHORITY HERE CAPTAIN!
I SAID LET HER GO!
KRAK!
I'M SICK OF YOUR MOUTH BOSS-MAN. I'M SICK OF YOU ENTIRELY! YOU GOD DAMN MOTHER.....
YOU TALK TOO MUCH, CREEP!
OOOOFF
YOU'LL FIND I STILL HAVE SOME SAY IN THIS OUTFIT.
8.

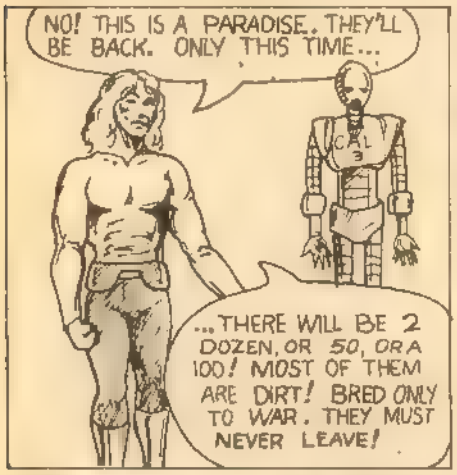
HELP US! WE'RE AFRAID!
CAL, MAN HAS TAKEN A LIFE!
CAL 3
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO? KILL ME!?
NONE MAY TAKE A LIFE HERE!
THERE WILL BE NO-MORE VIOLENCE.
RIGHT...
DON'T CRY.
C'MON, SMILE. IT WAS JUST A HORRIBLE ACCIDENT. LET'S HERE YOU REPLACE THOSE TEARS WITH A SONG. eh?
JUST. A AN ACCIDENT, MY CHILDREN... CONTINUE... THE FESTIVITIES.
CAL 3
CAL, BEFORE YOU SAY A WORD I WANT YOU TO STUDY OUR SHIPS DATA BANK. I FEAR YOU WILL FIND A MORE COMPLETE HISTORY OF MAN.
YES. I WILL DO THIS.

C.A.L.
C.A.L.
3


CAL, HAVE YOU FINISHED.
I UNDERSTAND NOW. I AM SORRY FOR MANKIND. THE DREAM IN YOUR BREAST THAT STRUGGLES TO BECOME REALITY.

IT'S FAR TO LATE FOR PITY OR PHILOSOPHY. YOUR PEOPLE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT MANS FAULTS THE HARD WAY. BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT.

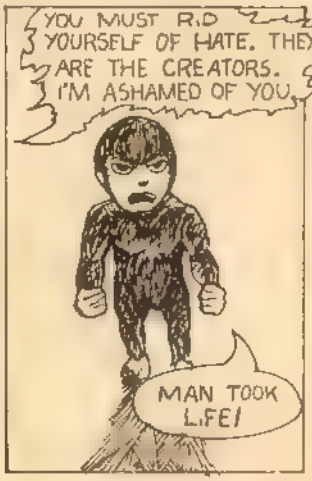

IN 3 HOURS WE LIFT OFF TO RENDEZVOUS WITH OTHER DESERTERS. IT'S ALL BEEN PRE-ARRANGED.
THEN ALL WILL BE AS IT WAS.
C.A.L. 3


NO! THIS IS A PARADISE. THEY'LL BE BACK. ONLY THIS TIME...
...THERE WILL BE 2 DOZEN, OR 50, OR A 100! MOST OF THEM ARE DIRT! BRED ONLY TO WAR. THEY MUST NEVER LEAVE!

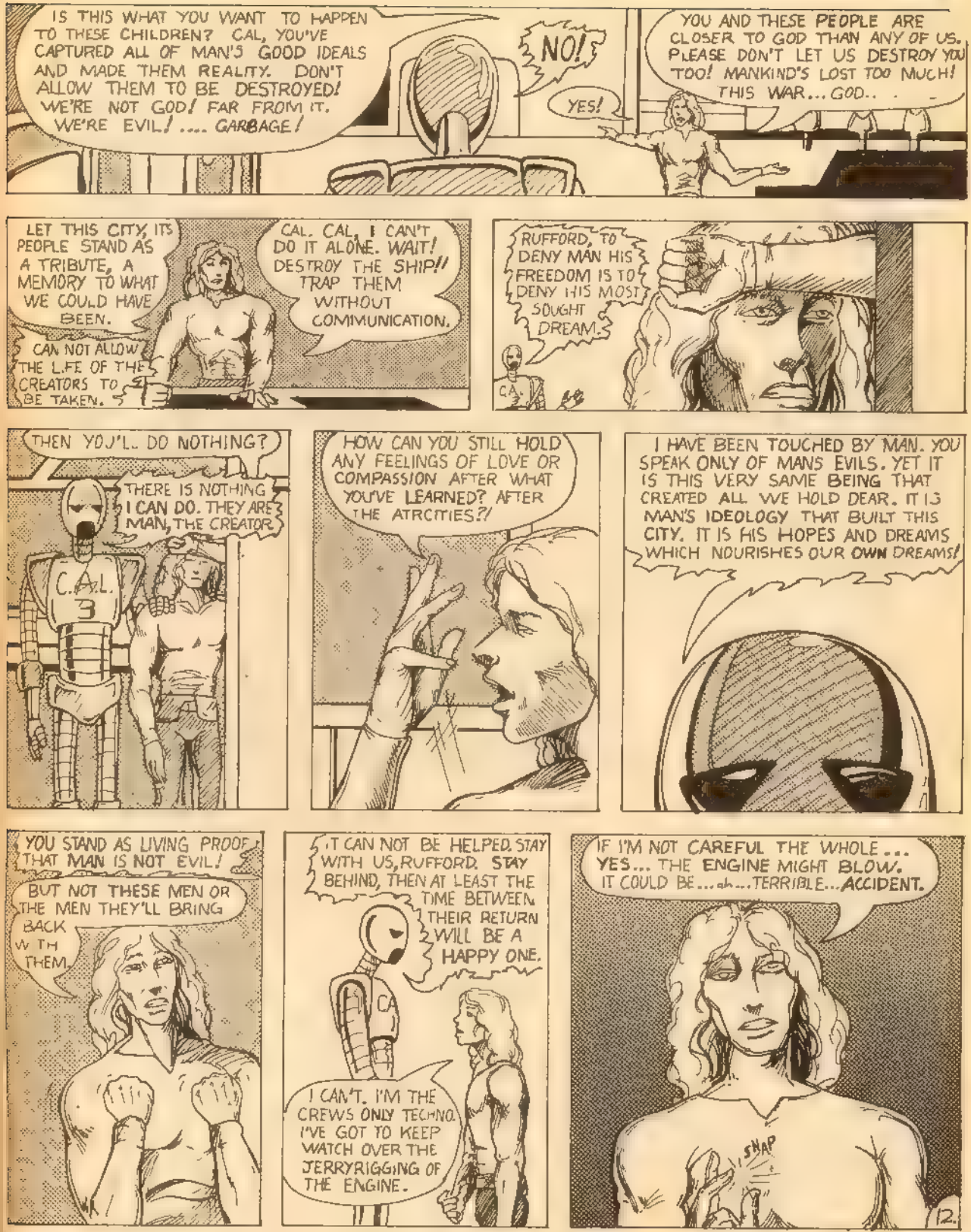
THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO.
STOP THEM, DAMN IT!
YOU'VE GOT THE POWER. SEND THE DRONE-ROBS... DRUGS... ANYTHING! BUT STOP THEM!

YOU SPEAK OF MURDER.
I WILL HELP KILL THEM! I HATE MAN! HE IS NOT GOOD!
eh?

NO. NONE MUST TAKE ANOTHER'S LIFE! EVER!
HE'S MOLESTED MY FAMILY... DESTROYS WHAT WE BUILD.


YOU MUST RID YOURSELF OF HATE. THEY ARE THE CREATORS. I'M ASHAMED OF YOU.
MAN TOOK LIFE!

THEY WERE WRONG!
NO... I...
PETER, COME BACK!


IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT TO HAPPEN TO THESE CHILDREN? CAL, YOU'VE CAPTURED ALL OF MAN'S GOOD IDEALS AND MADE THEM REALITY. DON'T ALLOW THEM TO BE DESTROYED! WE'RE NOT GOD! FAR FROM IT. WE'RE EVIL! .... GARBAGE!
NO!
YES!
YOU AND THESE PEOPLE ARE CLOSER TO GOD THAN ANY OF US. PLEASE DON'T LET US DESTROY YOU TOO! MANKIND'S LOST TOO MUCH! THIS WAR... GOD.. . .
LET THIS CITY, ITS PEOPLE STAND AS A TRIBUTE, A MEMORY TO WHAT WE COULD HAVE BEEN.
I CAN NOT ALLOW THE LIFE OF THE CREATORS TO BE TAKEN.
CAL. CAL, I CAN'T DO IT ALONE. WAIT! DESTROY THE SHIP!! TRAP THEM WITHOUT COMMUNICATION.
RUFFORD, TO DENY MAN HIS FREEDOM IS TO DENY HIS MOST SOUGHT DREAM.
CAL
THEN YOU'LL DO NOTHING?
THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO. THEY ARE MAN, THE CREATOR.
C.A.L. 3
HOW CAN YOU STILL HOLD ANY FEELINGS OF LOVE OR COMPASSION AFTER WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED? AFTER THE ATRCITIES?!
I HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY MAN. YOU SPEAK ONLY OF MANS EVILS. YET IT IS THIS VERY SAME BEING THAT CREATED ALL WE HOLD DEAR. IT IS MAN'S IDEOLOGY THAT BUILT THIS CITY. IT IS HIS HOPES AND DREAMS WHICH NOURISHES OUR OWN DREAMS!
YOU STAND AS LIVING PROOF THAT MAN IS NOT EVIL!
BUT NOT THESE MEN OR THE MEN THEY'LL BRING BACK W TH THEM.
IT CAN NOT BE HELPED. STAY WITH US, RUFFORD. STAY BEHIND, THEN AT LEAST THE TIME BETWEEN THEIR RETURN WILL BE A HAPPY ONE.
I CAN'T. I'M THE CREWS ONLY TECHNO. I'VE GOT TO KEEP WATCH OVER THE JERRYRIGGING OF THE ENGINE.
IF I'M NOT CAREFUL THE WHOLE... YES... THE ENGINE MIGHT BLOW. IT COULD BE... ah... TERRIBLE... ACCIDENT.
SNAP
12.

YOU MUST GO NOW, CAL. THERE IS MUCH I MUST DO.
RUFFORD.
FAREWELL MY FRIEND. KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE! MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND THAT MAN IS NOT EVIL. GET RID OF THEIR HATE.
DON'T YOU THINK A MAN ... THE CREATOR SHOULD TEACH THEM THAT, AND NOT A TIRED OLD ROBOT.
COME! THE CREATOR WISHES TO SPEAK TO YOU!
COME!
CAL
WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT MAN IS NOT ALWAYS RIGHT OR GOOD!
NO?
NO. SOMETIMES HE IS WRONG! SOMETIMES HE DOES BAD THINGS.
NO?
HE MAKES MISTAKES. YOU DON'T HATE PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY MAKE MISTAKES DO YOU?
NO!
NO, NO, NO!
PETER?
NO!...
GOOD. WE MEN...ah... WE TRY TO DO WHAT WE FEEL IS RIGHT, BUT SOMETIMES WE GIVE IN TO...ah... NAUGHTINESS.
EVEN MAN? nehehe
YES. EVEN MAN. I'M VERY PROUD OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE HERE! YOU HAVE ALL BEEN VERY GOOD. YOU HAVE ALL PASSED THE TEST!
TEST?
CAL
TEST, TEST! IT'S ALL BEEN A TEST. WE PASSED! MAN'S HAPPY!
8

YES...A TEST. YOU MUST ALWAYS DO WHAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT,...GOOD. YOU MUST LOVE EACH OTHER, MAKE MUSIC AND DANCE. FORGET HATE AS PETER HAS.
RIGHT, DEAR PETER?
YES CREATOR. YES!
GOOD. AND MOST IMPORTANT YOU MUST NEVER TAKE A LIFE. NEVER! NO-ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO HARM OTHERS.
NOT EVEN THE CREATORS. NOW TELL EVERYONE WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED.
LET THEM SING OF THE DAY MAN BID HIS FAREWELL AND SAID ALL IS GOOD.
YOU'RE LEAVING WHEN WILL YOU COME BACK?
MAN IS PLEASED WITH YOU AND YOUR CITY. YOU'VE MADE ME...US VERY HAPPY. THERE IS NO REASON TO EVER COME BACK.
THEN YOU DO NOT INTEND TO RETURN.
C.A.L.
CORRECT.
BUT WE WANT YOU TO COME. VISIT! TEACH US MORE! YOU HAVE GIVEN US SO MUCH. LET US SHARE OUR LOVE.
...M... GO NOW. YOU'LL ALL BE ON MY THOUGHTS ... THE END BE ... GOOD .. AND ... STEN TO CAL.. ...ETTING OLD YOU KNOW.
C.A.L.
14

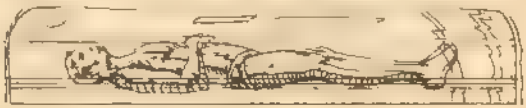
KNOWING THAT MAN HAS LOST PARADISE FOR A SECOND TIME.
MAN WILL NOT RETURN, CAL, I PROMISE YOU THAT!
CREATOR
WILL MAN EVER COME BACK, CAL?
PERHAPS.
END

2034 A.D. WITH THE OVER-POPULATION OF THE MOTHER PLANET EARTH, MAN HAS FILTERED OUT AMONG THE STARS.... SETTLING WHEREVER HE CAN. WITH THIS SCATTERING OF EXISTANCE, THERE COMES A NEED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS FROM ONE CIVILIZATION TO ANOTHER.... THE ANSWER.
Truck Rodgers
SPACE TRUCKER
WE GOT A LOAD OF LEFT SHOES FOR THE ONE LEGGED PEOPLE ON PLUTO.
"Berry"
WHERE ARE WE OFF TO TRUCK?
YES BOB.
THE PEOPLE ON PLUTO ARE AL... ONE LEGGED?
Rodgers
OH NO THERE GOES MY UNCLES DANCE STUDIO!
SHUT UP, BOB.
HEY BOB, HOW ABOUT A BOWL OF CHILI AT AL'S TRUCK STOP?
YEAH, SOUNDS GOOD TRUCK. IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE HAD A REAL GOOD B..
SHUT UP, BOB.
WRITTEN & LETTERED BY JOHN PETER ART BY KENNY SCHETTLING
LATER IN THE DINER, TRUCK SPOTS AN OLD FRIEND.
SET UP TWO WE'LL BE THERE SHORTLY, OVER.
HEY SWEETCAKES THIS .S THE BIG TRUCK YOU GOT YOUR EARS ON OVER.
SHORE THANG HONEYLAMB.
10-4 HONEY.
DO NOT OPEN
HEY! FRANK SCHMIDT, YOU OWE ME TEN BUCKS! PAY UP JERK!
8 © COPYRIGHT 1977 KENNY SCHETTLING AND JOHN PETER

I'M NOT FRANK SCMIDT, I'M A HOSTILE ALIEN!! I'VE COME TO DESTROY THIS FLOATING CIVILIZATION!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DON'T YOU LIKE THE FOOD?
SHUT UP BOB!! I'VE COME TO PUT AN END TO ALL THAT EXISTS HERE!!
OH YEAH!! WELL STEP OUTSIDE FELLA!!
AFTER YOU CHUMP!
OKAY-y-y-y y y y !!
TRUCK'S QUICK THINKING SENDS THE ALIEN FLOATING OUT INTO DEEP SPACE.
THE SECOND ALIEN, TRYING TO REMAIN UNNOTICED, TAKES A BITE OF AL'S EXTREMLY FAMOUS HOT CHILI
WATER!!
OUT THIS DOOR.
THANK YOUUUUUUU!!
KEEP YOUR KISSES WARM FOR ME SWEETY, YA HEAR?
LET'S GO BOB.
WORKS EVERY TIME.
YEA! TRUCK
THANKS TO YOU TRUCK THE WHOLE UNIVERSE IS AGAIN SAFE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ALL THAT IS
SHUT UP BOB.
WATER!!
HEY, WHO'S GONNA PAY FOR THE CHILI?
TRUCK STOP
AL'S CHIL PALACE FOOD GA
EAT

SIDESTEPS

DURING A NOBLE EXPERIMENT IN THE YEAR 2183, DR CROMWELL SUCCESSFULLY TRANSFORMED THE LIFE SUSTENANCE OF AN AGED, ARTHRITIC MAN INTO THE VIGOUR OF A YEARLY [illegible] THROUGH BIOFEEDBACK, HYPNOSIS, MASS PROJECTION [illegible] INTO THE POOR AND CRIPPLED OF [illegible] HE ACHIEVED A BREAKTHROUGH IN MAN AND DECIDED TO [illegible] HIS NEW DISCOVERY INTO THE MILITARY WHILE SAVING THE YOUTH FOR DOING THE TASKS OF AGE. AS THE NAZIS ARE NOW SET IN MOTION...



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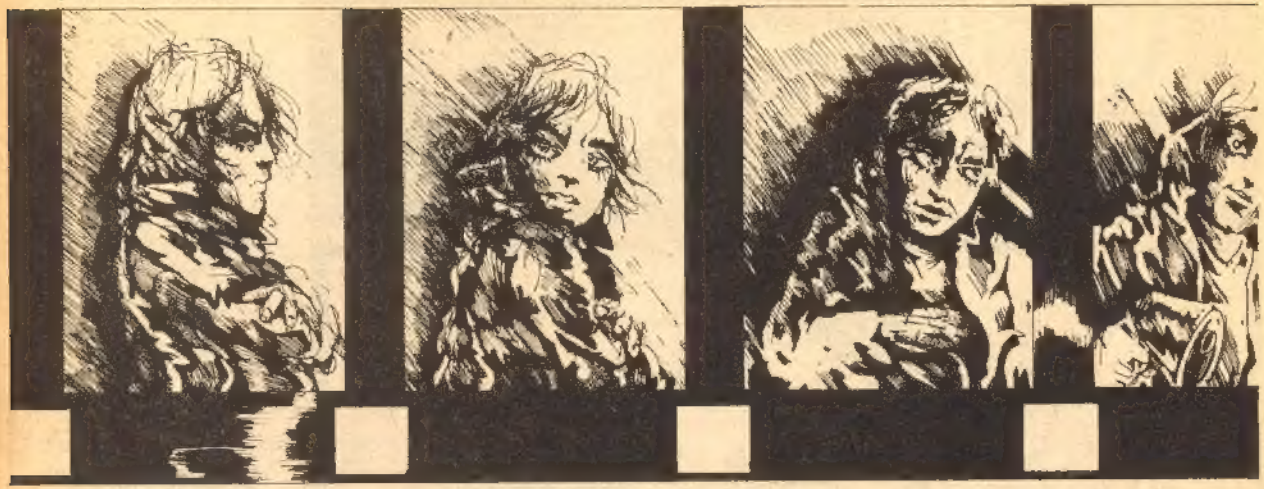
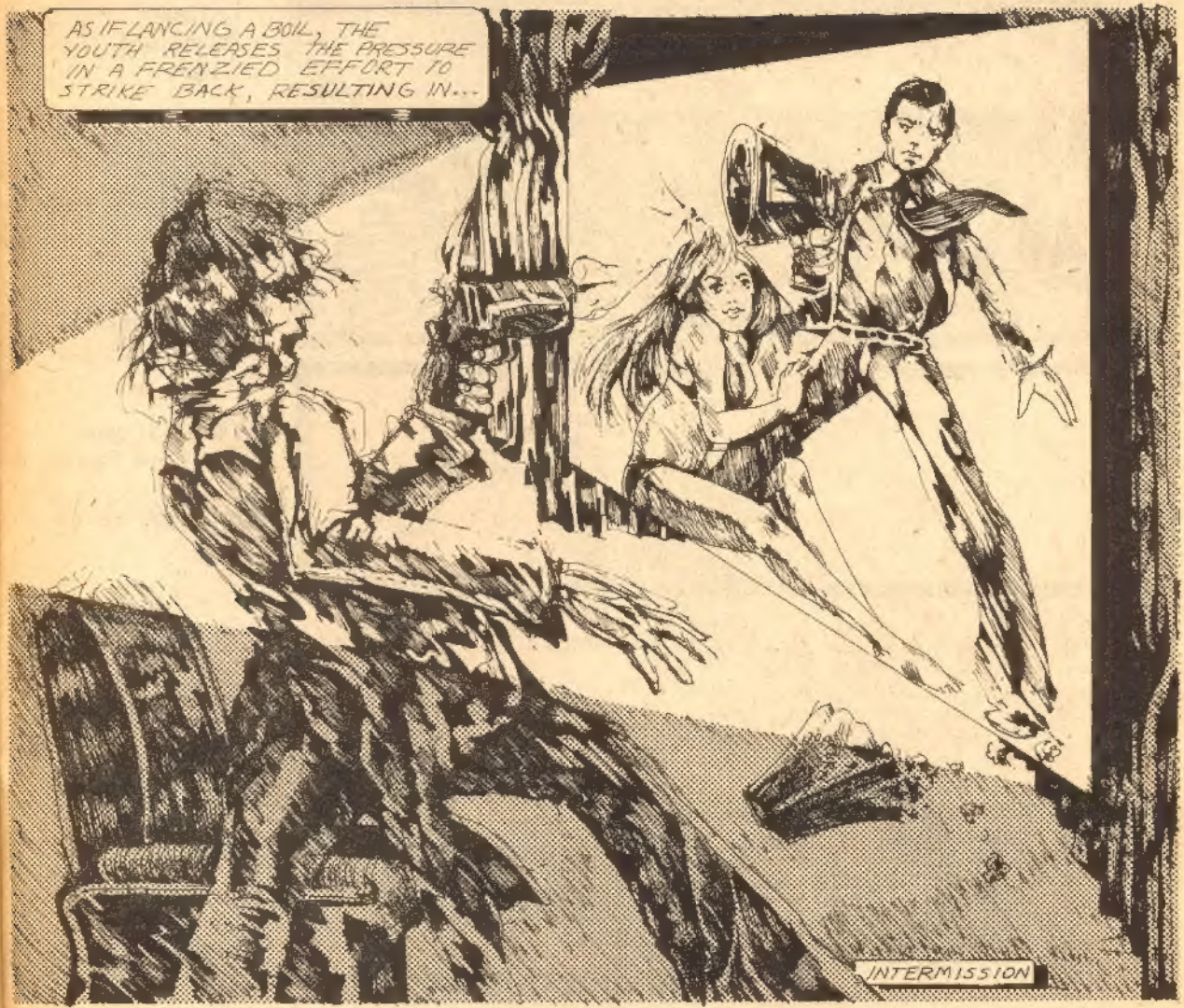
MASTER
PERHAPS WE...
I HAVE PLANNED
THEIR ENTERTAINMENT
TO THREE TIMES A WEEK
AND INCREASE THE FLUIDITY
MOTION

THE "FLICKERS" - DRUG INDUCED ENTERTAINMENT USED TO ANAESTHETIZE THE MASSES...





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